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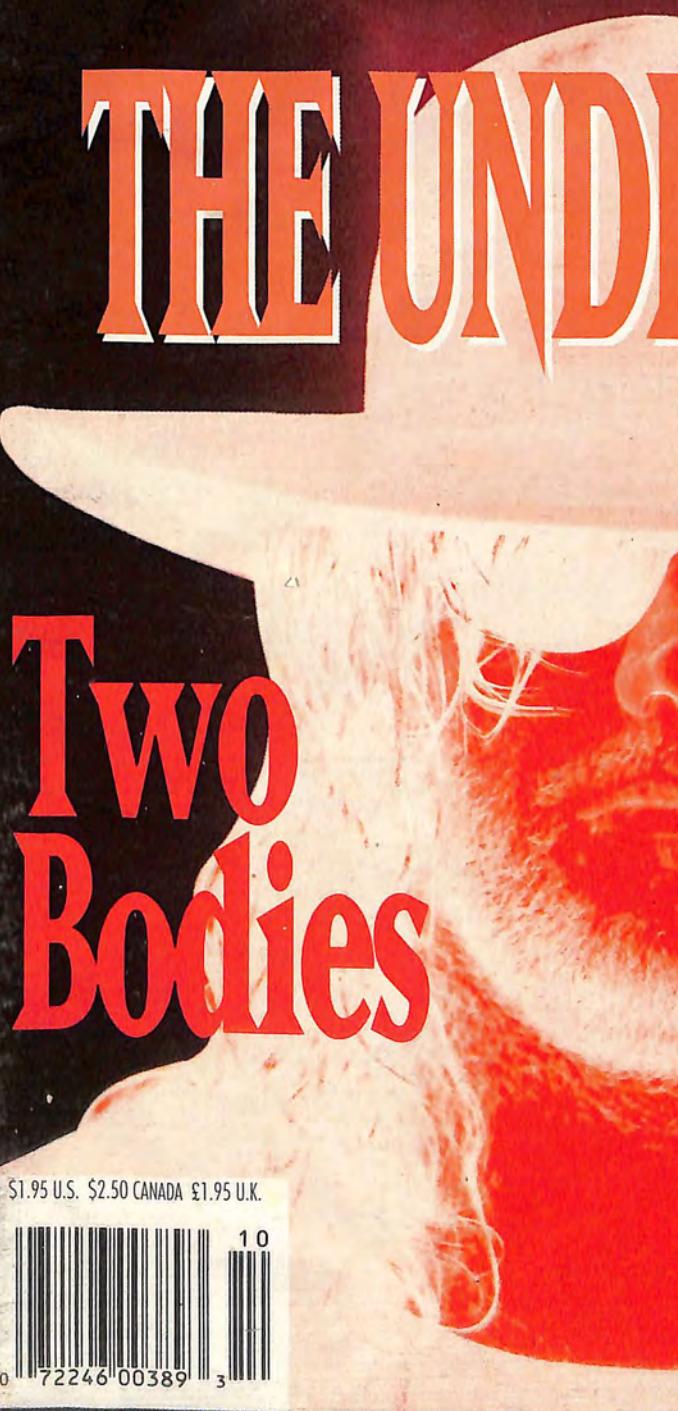
October 1994

THE WRESTLER

Wrestler^{THE}

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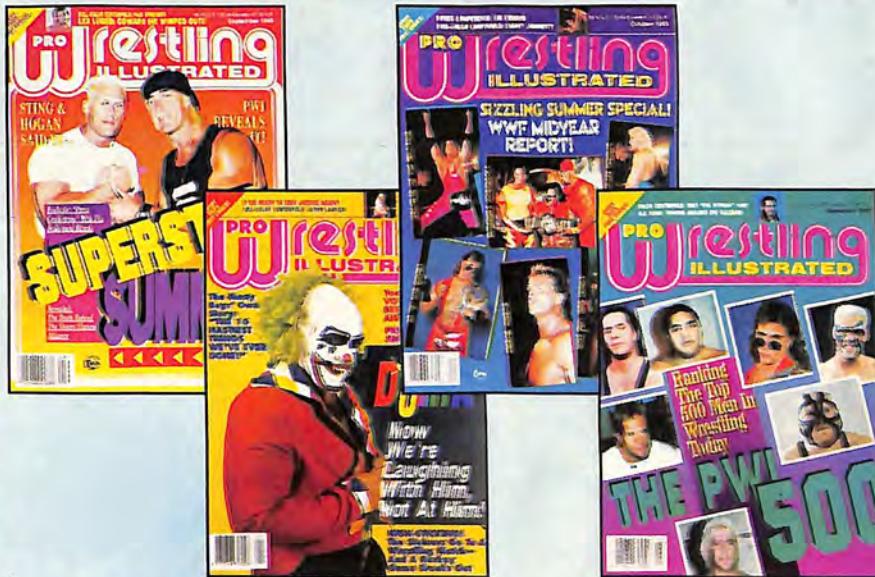
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THE Wrestler

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YOUR LETTERS

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FUNK-Y MOVE

When I first read that Terry Funk had tried a moonsault during a recent match, I thought it was a misprint. I always knew that Funk was fearless, but when I saw that he had pulled off that move, I

thought he had gone off the deep end. I hope that Funk never tries a moonsault again because the last thing I need to read is that he is recovering from a broken neck!

TEDDY PARKER
Charleston, WV



Terry Funk executes a moonsault during a recent match with Sabu. Reader Teddy Parker isn't sure Funk, one of wrestling's warhorses, should attempt such a move at his age and risk a severe injury.

PARKER IS POULTRY

I think that WCW should ban Col. Robert Parker the way they did Missy Hyatt. He interferes in every one of Bunkhouse Buck and Steve Austin's matches, especially those against "Flyin'" Brian Pillman and Dustin Rhodes. He's also a chicken, so that chicken suit Pillman made him wear earlier this year should fit him just fine. He always looks scared when he comes face-to-face with Pillman, Rhodes, Johnny B. Badd, Ric Flair, or any other tough wrestler. Col. Parker—I mean "K.F.C."—I think you should watch out.

DIXIE KIMSEY
Vidalia, GA

GO EAST, "BEAST"

Over the past few years, only a few select wrestlers have earned my support. But the one who has invariably stood out has been Bam Bam Bigelow. His blend of skill and ferociousness is unique, but a recent prolonged feud with Doink the Clown has seriously damaged his reputation ("Everyone's Laughing At Bigelow: Doink Has Made Him The WWF's Buffoon," June 1994).

My advice to Bam Bam is, quite simply, to return to New Japan Pro Wrestling. This potential legend hasn't accomplished much in the WWF and promoters aren't giving him a break. New Japan could use Bigelow, as their heavyweight

scene is stagnating. For both parties involved, I think this would be a great move.

RAJEEV KURANI
Middlesex, England

POLO FAN

What qualities do you usually see in a successful wrestling manager? Arrogance, an eye for talent, and aggressiveness are three that come to my mind. Harley Race, Col. Rob Parker, and Jim Cornette are all great managers because they know what it takes. When it comes to managers of the future, I say keep an eye on Johnny Polo.

He took the mediocre Quebecers and helped to make them three-time WWF World tag team champions. Listen to him talk for

about 15 seconds and you'll know just how cocky he is. Now that The Quebecers seem to be through, I hope Polo aggressively seeks new talent. There are plenty of good young wrestlers out there who could benefit from his guidance.

NANCY MERYENNE
Toronto, Ontario

OFFICIAL GRIPE

What is going on in the USWA these days? It didn't bother me a year or two when Paul Neighbors and Frank Morell occasionally wrestled after getting pulled into a feud, but I thought the federation had finally put an end to those kind of shenanigans. Then along comes Scott Bowden, a referee-turned-rulebreaker. I won't try to explain why, but all of a sudden he has something against Jerry "The King" Lawler. He hangs around people like Doug Gilbert and "Dream Machine" Troy Graham.

The USWA should not allow this. Bowden should be banned from the federation forever. If they did ban him, they would be sending a clear message to other referees that this type of action is intolerable. Lawler shouldn't even have to waste his time settling the dispute with Bowden in the ring.

KENT ATWOOD
Covington, TN

WELCOME, HULK!

I'm beginning to think I am in the minority on this one, but I'm thrilled that Hulk Hogan signed with WCW. A lot of my friends think the days of



Bam Bam Bigelow's status has been diminished by feuding with Doink the Clown, reader Rajeev Kurani argues. He says Bigelow should return to New Japan Pro Wrestling, where he achieved earlier glory before joining the WWF.



Johnny Polo may be a top manager of the future, says reader Nancy Meryenne, who notes his arrogance, aggressiveness, and eye for talent.

"Hulkamania" are long over and that wrestling has passed Hogan by. Maybe that's true, I don't know. But I think he deserves the chance to prove he can still be a winner. If he can beat Flair in WCW and even win the World title from him, then he can definitely call himself the best wrestler of his era.

TOMMY THORNTON
Bangor, ME

"THE FINK" TRIUMPHS!

It seems like it's been decades since Harvey Wippleman began mismanaging careers in the WWF. I am amazed that Kwang the Ninja and Adam Bomb were stupid enough to hire him. I can't wait to see him driven out of the WWF for good. The man for that job might turn out to be legendary—and classy—ring announcer Howard "The Fink" Finkel. Wippleman instigated a feud

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

By Bill Apter

INCREASED TV RATINGS prove people have gotten over **David Letterman's** switch from NBC to CBS. At WCW, officials hope wrestling fans can accept **Hulk Hogan** in their federation after a decade in the WWF. The "Hulkster" finally confirmed many months of rumors by announcing on a *WCW Saturday Night* telecast that he'd signed a contract.

It won't be easy for Hogan. While he'll certainly bring a legion of "Hulkamaniacs" to **Ted Turner's** promotion, he'll also have to win over veteran WCW fans who still perceive Hogan as symbolic of the WWF "circus" they so despise. **Ric Flair's** meat-and-potatoes wrestling is more their style. Also, some wonder if Hogan has enough left in him to wrestle full-time again after all the days he's spent acting.

I think critics tend to underestimate Hogan's wrestling skills—he's more than a brawler—and his ability to adapt to a different environment. After all, over the past year he's been able to win several bouts on Japanese soil against some of that country's best. The S.S. Hulkster may have a rocky launching, but eventually will have smooth sailing in WCW.



Call her "Sensuous," "Sensational," or even "Scary," but Sherri Martel is noted for causing all sorts of havoc when she pursues a man. Now that she's in WCW, one of its wrestlers is bound to become her romantic target.



Not long ago, Diesel frequently had this look on his face during WWF matches, as if he was surprised being there. That's not true anymore. He has rapidly improved en route to becoming Intercontinental champion.

Hogan's not the only WWF alumnus in WCW. There's **Bobby Heenan**, **Jesse Ventura**, and **Gene Okerlund**, not to mention **Sherri Martel**. She's now labeled "Sensuous" rather than "Sensational," but still causing her own kind of mischief. Might she go after the "Hulkster"? We're waiting to find out ...

Whether you like or hate **Larry Zbyszko**, give him credit for pulling off one of the bigger surprises in recent WCW history. The veteran shocked TV champion **Lord Steven Regal** in a non-title bout at the Slamboree pay-per-view in May and did it again at a TV taping in Atlanta to win the belt. It's giving all of us middle-aged mat fans a lift.

Give **Kevin Sullivan** credit for making the most of a bad situation. Before Slamboree, he had made a tasteless remark about how **Cactus Jack**, **The Nasty Boys**, and **John Kruk** would all

be missing body parts in Philadelphia. (Kruk is the pudgy Phillies first baseman who was treated this spring for testicular cancer.) But Sullivan defused any potential tension at the Philadelphia Civic Center by wearing a Phillies jersey with Kruk's name and number. Not only did he win over the fans, but he and Cactus beat the Nastys for the tag team title—with some help from a hockey stick belonging to former Flyers enforcer and special guest referee **Dave Schultz**. See what a little diplomacy can do.

Over in the now post-Hogan WWF, World champion **Bret Hart** and his younger brother **Owen** have had some marvelous matches in recent months, though I'm personally not keen on settling fraternal feuds in the ring. Now word is out that the brothers will now meet in a series of steel cage bouts. While these could be intriguing matches, I'm not sure

turning this rivalry up a notch is a good thing. Especially for the tortured psyches of **Stu** and **Helen Hart**, who have been through so much as it is.

As things stand, **Diesel** has an excellent shot at being named Most Improved Wrestler of the Year by readers of our sister magazine, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*. The towering Intercontinental champion deserves plenty of praise for honing his craft over the past few months. He's come a long way from the raw **Vinnie Vegas** who rarely achieved his potential in WCW.

How good is **Alundra Blayze**? Apparently, too good for **Luna Vachon**. The feud all fans of women's wrestling had looked forward to has been completely one-sided, as the WWF World Women's champion has had no trouble with the madwoman from Montreal. Many observers predicted otherwise, recalling how Blayze (then **Madusa Miceli**) and Vachon were evenly matched when they wrestled in the Caribbean several years ago. Blayze just keeps getting better and better, and may have to wait for a serious challenge until Japanese star **Bull Nakano's** rumored invasion of the WWF this fall.

The WWF, the federation who gave us multiple **Doinks**, now has a pair of **Undertakers**. At a recent TV taping, **Ted DiBiase** claimed he had revived the big man from the darkside and brought an Undertaker into the ring, although many weren't buying the "Million-Dollar Man's" argument. This 'Taker looked somewhat smaller than **Paul Bearer's** version. Might the two meet in the ring? Will WWF President **Jack Tunney**, recalling his Doink decision, rule there can only be one Under-

(Continued on page 54)

NO HOLDS BARRED

with David Rosenbaum

THE THREE LONGEST droughts in professional sports now belong to the Chicago Cubs, the Chicago White Sox, and WCW. Yes, WCW.

Now that the New York Rangers did away with the Curse of 1940 by winning their first Stanley Cup in 54 years, I can truly say that WCW has taken its place among the new hapless trio.

Here's my point: How long has it been since WCW (or the NWA) was the premier, number one, *numero uno* wrestling promotion in the United States? The WWF has reigned for a long time, but there's evidence the reign is nearly over.

Unfortunately, there's also ample evidence it will continue.

The Rangers took their first step toward winning the Cup by acquiring Mark Messier. They moved closer with the acquisitions of Adam Graves, Kevin Lowe, and Esa Tikkanen. Mike Keenan came in as coach at the start of the 1993-94 season. They got Stephane Matteau, Brian Noonan,



If Hulk Hogan attempts to elicit "Hulkamania" from WCW fans, he'd better be prepared to hear reactions other than the traditional cheers. The WCW audience considers the "Hulkster" an outsider, symbolic of the WWF they despise.

Glenn Anderson, and Craig MacTavish at the trading deadline.

Presto! 1940 is history and the Cup resides in Manhattan.

WCW took its first step toward closing the gap with the signing of color commentator Jesse Ventura, a key part of WWF's championship run. Rick Rude returned. It managed to keep Sting, despite gargantuan offers from other federations. Big Van Vader chose to wrestle in WCW. Ric Flair returned. The puzzle was nearly completed when Gene Okerlund and Bobby "The Brain" Heenan abandoned the WWF broadcast team for WCW.

And now we have the final piece of the puzzle: Hulk Hogan. The Messiah. The most famous wrestler in history. Wrestling's only true household name. B-movie superstar. *Suburban Commando*. *Mr. Nanny* himself.

But WCW still isn't the center of the wrestling world. Hogan is there, but there's some question about whether anyone cares. Okay, so most wrestling fans care and they're looking forward to the upcoming Flair-Hogan rematches.

Does the general public care? I
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BY
ANDY
RODRIGUEZ

BY
ANDY
RODRIGUEZ

LARRY ZBYSZKO CALLED and invited me to play golf. I don't know why he called me. He could have called anyone on the staff. He could have called Craig Peters, who is an excellent golfer. I don't even golf. Well, okay, I do like miniature golf, and I do make an occasional trip to the driving range. That's the extent of it.

"Why did I call you, Rodriguez?" the self-styled "Living Legend" barked into the receiver. "Because I'm in a good mood and I feel like having a good laugh. I'm sure you'll deliver."

There was Zbyszko, feeling good about himself. Why shouldn't he? He was on a winning streak when just a short time ago he had to be thinking his career was over. Nearly everyone who thinks they know anything thought it was a bad move for Zbyszko to have challenged the effete Englishman, Lord Steven Regal. They thought Zbyszko had been out of action for too long, that he had become too comfortable as a member of the WCW broadcasting crew. I was among the doubters.

After Zbyszko's performance, the question was not: How did he win? It was: Why did so many of us think he wouldn't win?

"It's not like I hadn't wrestled for five years," Zbyszko offered after I said I'd consider his invitation to hit the links. "You people think that as soon as an active wrestler starts a stint behind the mike, his career is finished. Ridiculous. Hey, sitting in that broadcast booth I pick up a lot about a wrestler's style. I know a guy's strengths and weaknesses better than he knows them himself."

"Obviously, I made no mistake in getting in the ring at Slamboree," he continued. "I had every right to be there. You should be asking Regal if he thinks he made a mistake in taking me on. He might be the one having regrets. I psyched him out in the non-title match and easily beat him for the TV belt when the title was on the line."

"Okay," I said. "I want to get Regal's side of the story. I'll get back to you later."

"No, no," he responded. "It's time for you and me to do some golfing. You'll have plenty of time for Regal. I hear he spends his whole day sitting around crying."

I promised Zbyszko I'd consider the golf. Then I asked him if he was back full-time or just to make the minimum number of title defenses.

"My gut feeling," he answered, "is that I have nothing to prove. I showed the spud-heads I'm still one of the best damned wrestlers out there. Having said that, I honestly can't rule out shooting for even bigger titles. Just being in the ring again and hearing all the idiots cheering and booing was an amazing experience. The sport's in my blood. I've been part of it for almost 20 years."

"But I wouldn't want to give up my role as commentator," he added. "I have a real ball doing that. I get a kick out of telling guys like [Tony] Schiavone and [Eric] Bischoff what's really going on. Sometimes they try so hard to be fair, they're afraid to give their opinion. Nobody has to worry about the 'Living Legend' not having an opinion."

"If you had to make a choice?" I asked. "What would it be: commentating or wrestling?"

"I'd wrestle, absolutely," he responded. "But I'd never have to make a choice. I keep all my options open. I do whatever I want. That includes golfing whenever I want. Remember?"

I never did go golfing with Zbyszko. I told him while he was deciding whether to use a five- or six-iron, I'd be figuring out how to get the putt through Paul Bunyan's legs. □



Zbyszko punishes Lord Steven.

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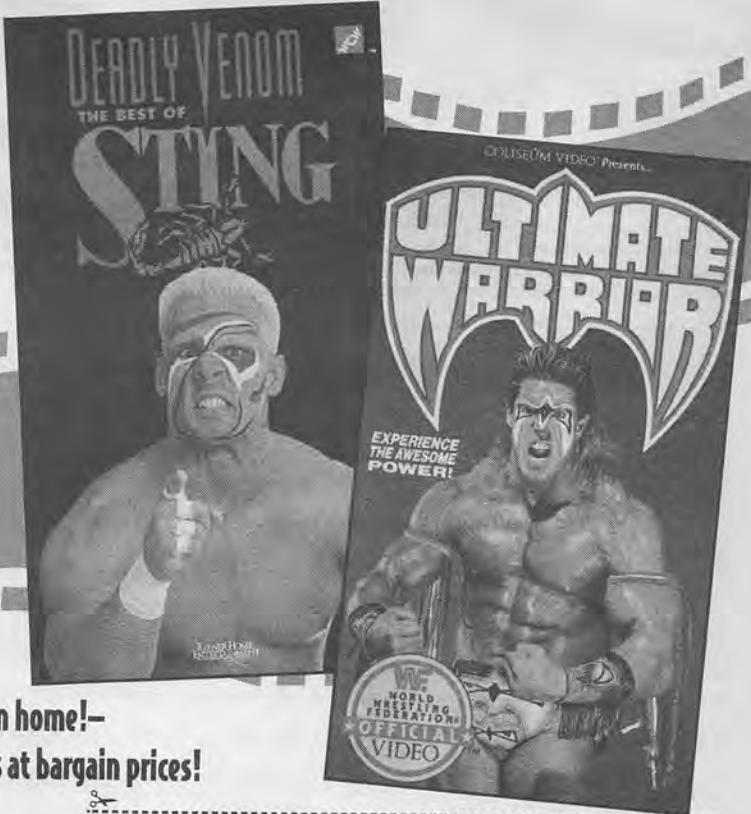
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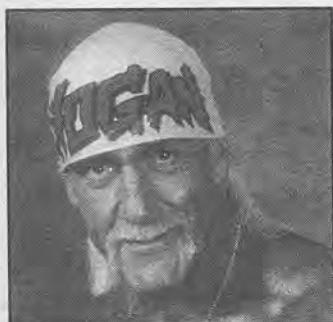
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Thumbs Up

Each Issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



Thumbs Up to Hulk Hogan. The "Hulkster" made a fortune during his WWF career and carved out a lucrative side job as a movie star. So give him plenty of credit for answering Ric Flair's challenge and returning to active duty in WCW. Hogan has everything to lose and nothing to gain, just the opposite of Flair. To the general public, Hogan is already the greatest, most famous wrestler in history. Perhaps he's also more of a sportsman than we ever thought. Hogan-Flair might not be what it could have been five years ago, but it should be an entertaining chapter in wrestling annals.



Thumbs Up to Larry Zbyszko. What a comeback! The "Living Legend" (we hate that nickname because it should only apply to Bruno Sammartino) came out of retirement and humiliated Lord Steven Regal to take his WCW TV title. This could be the comeback of the year, if not the decade (we're still waiting to see how Hogan fares against Flair). How great it would be if Zbyszko beat Regal a few more times and re-retired as champion! We're truly touched by this story because Zbyszko is showing more heart now than he ever did during his long career. Maybe he learned something from Bruno after all.



Thumbs Up to 2 Cold Scorpio. After a great start in WCW, he began stalling there, as if he had reached an insurmountable bump in the road. Instead of trying to forge forward and possibly causing irreversible damage to his career, Scorpio stepped out of the WCW spotlight and opted for the considerably lesser glare in ECW. And he immediately took on the best it had to offer by challenging Sabu in a thrilling match. Good news for ECW, good news for Scorpio. We think both he and Sabu will benefit from this series of bouts in the coming months.



Thumbs Up to Razor Ramon. When he lost his Intercontinental title to Diesel, the editors of *THE WRESTLER* thought the "Bad Guy" would quickly topple out of the WWF ratings. He didn't. Instead of giving up, Ramon is fighting back, and has compiled an impressive record since losing the belt. Many wrestlers suffer from depression after losing a major title, and start losing matches to lesser wrestlers. That hasn't happened to Ramon, who has kept himself focused on becoming a two-time I-C champ. With this kind of attitude, we have no doubt Diesel will soon be a former champion, too.

Thumbs Down



Thumbs Down to Jerry Lawler. At times "The King" is among the most entertaining figures in wrestling, but this isn't one of them. Lawler is resorting to desperate, cheap measures to get attention. Belittling Roddy Piper's "Piper's Pit" was humorous, but insulting the patients in the Toronto Children's Hospital was beyond contempt. Lawler has always been popular in Memphis, and earned many friends in the wrestling world by taking on comedian Andy Kaufman more than a decade ago. Well, Lawler's not making friends any more. We think he owes an apology to the Toronto Children's Hospital.



Thumbs Down to The Sandman. Tobacco is a direct cause of lung cancer. Cigarette ads are illegal on TV. Yet as the war against smoking mounts, The Sandman enters the ring with a cigarette in his mouth. Isn't smoking prohibited in most wrestling arenas? And is he so addicted to this habit that he needs a prematch smoke? Why does ECW allow this behavior? Its officials should realize that many fans are under 18, and that it has a responsibility to provide clean, safe entertainment. There's a wrestler in Florida named The Surgeon General. We wish he'd enter ECW to show Sandman the error of his ways.



Thumbs Down to Bobby Heenan. Despite his past, "The Brain" had no business belittling Hulk Hogan upon the "Hulkster's" arrival in WCW. Heenan should have put his feelings aside and realized that Hogan's presence is good for WCW, and thus good for him. If Heenan wants to leave the broadcast table and return as a manager, fine. Then he can argue with Hogan, not now in his current role as objective analyst. WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel should be careful about having Heenan at ringside when Hogan wrestles Flair. An interfering arm here, a trip there, would only hurt wrestling.



Thumbs Down to Ted DiBiase. The "Million-Dollar Man" can buy anything—except for intelligence and good judgment. It's clear to anyone who knows the real Undertaker that DiBiase's version is a fraud. And the genuine 'Taker returned to action in Japan weeks before DiBiase introduced his double to the U.S. Some resurrection! DiBiase is probably angry that he introduced the real Undertaker to the WWF, but couldn't reap the rewards when Undertaker won the World title. Now 'Taker is one of the WWF's most popular wrestlers and DiBiase doesn't like it. His solution, though imaginative, is too transparent.

CORRESPONDENTS

REPORTS

Reading, PA (Correspondent—Elliott Norwell): A fierce independent rivalry between the patriotic Hacksaw Duggan and the bizarre Papa Shango was rekindled at the Muscles 'n' More Gym.

Shango arrived with his smoking skull in hand. Duggan saluted the American flag on his way to the ring, but Shango had no inter-

est in patriotism. He knocked Hacksaw down with a series of punches and applied a headlock. Duggan rallied with three consecutive clotheslines; the last one knocked Shango over the top rope and on to the arena floor.

When Shango returned to the ring, he weakened his opponent with a chokehold. He kneed Duggan in the back and knocked him out of the ring. Before Duggan could recover, the voodoo master whacked him with a chair.

However, the fans' cheers inspired Hacksaw to mount a comeback. He tossed Shango into the turnbuckle. Standing on the middle rope, he delivered 10 punches. He got the pin after flooring Shango with his clothesline tackle.

In other bouts: Purple Haze pinned Derrick Domino... Sal Bellomo beat Steve Richards... Jeff Grippey beat The Phantom... Rapid Fire and The Black Hearts wrestled to a double-disqualification... T. Rantula and Skull Von Kramer wrestled to a double-countout... Lord Zoltan beat Frank Staletto.

Chicago, IL (Correspondent—Jonathan O'Brien): A new twist was added to the tag team wars between WWF World tag team champions The Headshrinkers

(Continued on page 56)



Papa Shango roughs up Hacksaw Duggan on the middle rope, but Duggan held on and rallied for the pin after flooring the voodoo master with a clothesline tackle.

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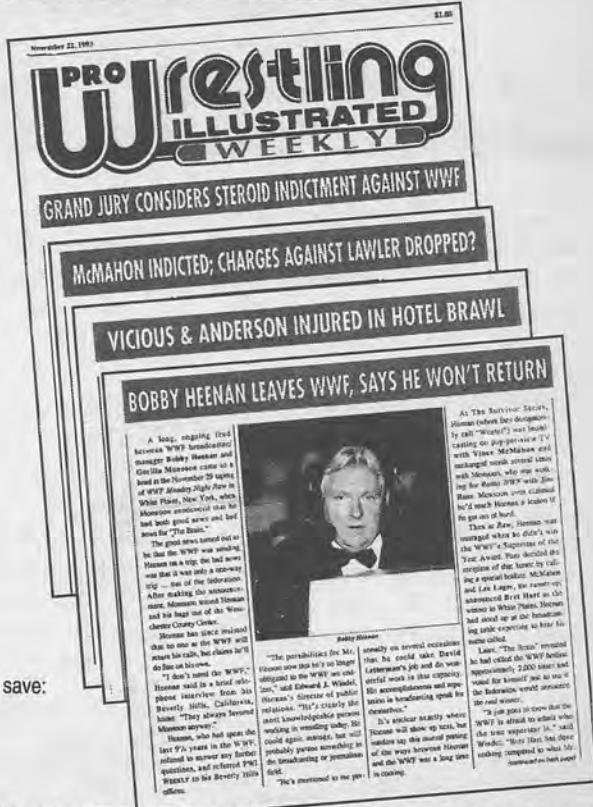
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YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature that YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR questions! Only the best questions will be answered, so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who would like to have answer them—to:

YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER,
Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.

Q: "I have a question for Sabu: People say Cactus Jack is the most dangerous and reckless maniac there is in wrestling. Do you agree?"—John Harter, Philadelphia, PA

A: "I know Mr. Jack very well and he deserves much credit for the all the punishment he is willing to absorb in the ring," Sabu replied through an interpreter. "He will try any move anywhere in an arena when he is wrestling. He does not care if he is in the ring or outside it. For that, I respect Mr. Jack.

is what I will do. If I have to break every bone in his body or make him bleed, I will do it. When I am through with Mr. Jack, he will never wrestle again!"

Q: "This question is for Tammy Fytch: Since you did try wrestling a few months ago, would you go after a women's belt if Smoky Mountain ever instituted such a title?"—Micah West, Newark, NJ

A: "Stupid question," replied Fytch. "I already beat up the



Sabu (battering Tasmaniac) admires Cactus Jack's intensity but says no wrestler is more maniacal than him. He says he'll prove it when they face each other.

But I feel I am better than him, more dangerous. The only way to prove that to him is to beat him over and over again. That

'Dirty White Girl' more times than I care to remember. What a disgusting experience that was, but everyone should thank

me for putting that pig in her place. I don't have anything else to prove as a wrestler. Brian Lee and Chris Candido are the Smoky Mountain tag team champions and they need me to manage them. You know men—they always need a woman around to do their thinking for them."



Tammy Fytch has decided to end her wrestling career after several matches against "Dirty White Girl" Kimberly. She says she has nothing more to prove in the ring, and will limit herself to managing Brian Lee and Chris Candido.

Q: "I'd like to ask Dustin Rhodes a question: It's no secret that you have been slumping over the last few months. What are your plans for getting back on track and getting revenge on Col. Parker's Stud Stable?"—Steve Tarnetta, Stuart, VA

A: "I wouldn't exactly call it a slump, Steve," said Rhodes, "but you and everyone else probably know things haven't been going exactly the way I've wanted them to. It sounds silly, but I just take it one match at a time these days. Frankly, it doesn't matter how many guys

(Continued on page 58)

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Hulk Hogan hails from which California beach community?

- 1) Malibu
- 2) Pacific Heights
- 3) Venice Beach
- 4) Newport Beach

At what University did Ron Simmons play football?

- 1) Notre Dame
- 2) Florida State University
- 3) Michigan State University
- 4) Oglethorpe University

True or False: Giant Gonzales competed in the 1984 Olympics as a member of Argentina's water polo team

- 1) True
- 2) False

The Undertaker was once tag team partners with...

- 1) Lou Albano
- 2) Sergeant Slaughter
- 3) Rick Steiner
- 4) None of the above

How did you do? If you're up for the challenge and want to put your wrestling knowledge to work, call now and go for the \$250!

INTRODUCING

RYANT ANDERSON

By Dave Lenker

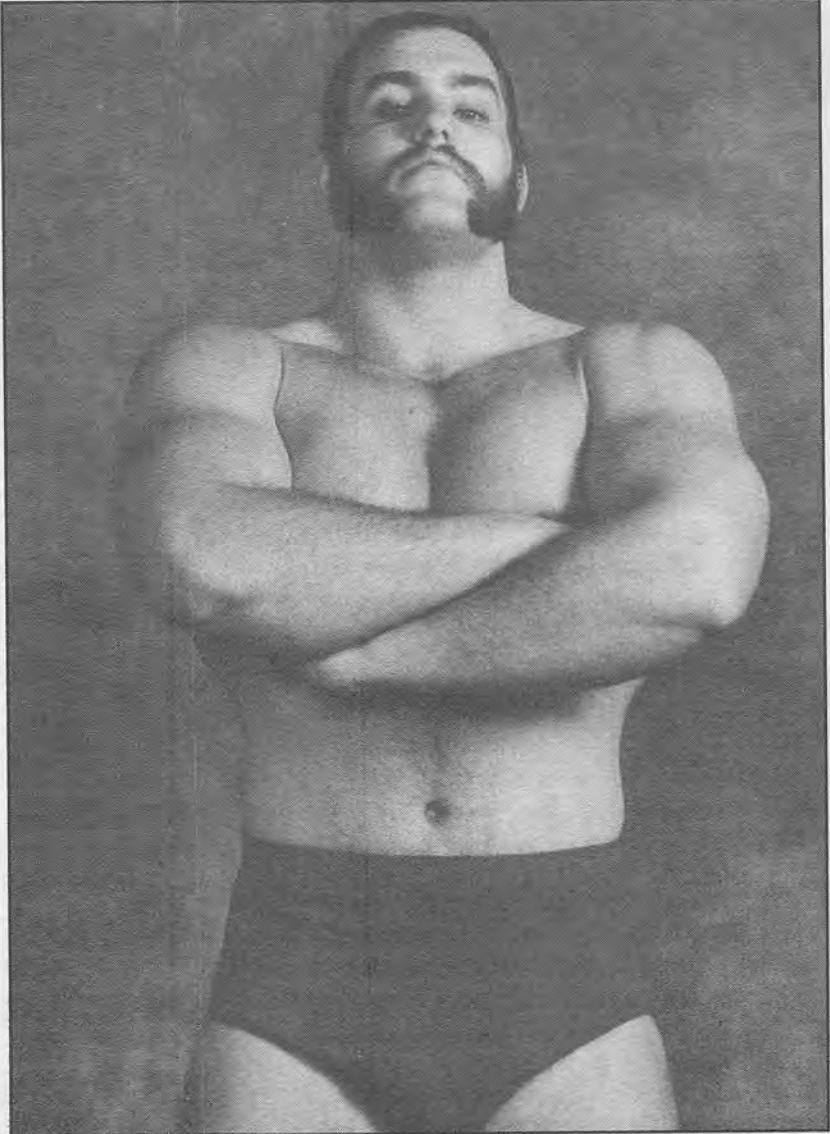
LIKE FATHER, LIKE son? Bryant Anderson certainly hopes so.

Anderson has been in WCW for about a year, gradually gaining recognition as a solid all-around wrestler. But people aware of his family tree aren't surprised one bit.

His father, Ole Anderson, teamed with his Uncle Gene to win five NWA World tag team titles. Another relation, Arn, has been part of six teams that have captured tag team belts in major federations. Other members of the clan have had success in the ring. That includes Lars Anderson, the brother of Ole and Gene, as well as Gene's son, Brad Anderson.

"From the time I was about six years old, just old enough to know what my dad did for a living, I knew that's what I wanted to do, too," Bryant said. "It's in my blood."

And he knew how to train for it. The 6', 240-pound Bryant grew up in Minneapolis and wrestled at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga to close out a brilliant amateur career. From there, it was on to Atlanta and WCW headquarters. He made his pro



For years, wrestlers named Anderson have had success in this sport. As the son of Ole Anderson, Bryant Anderson intends to continue the family tradition.

The Anderson family is one of the greatest in wrestling history. Gene and Ole teamed for five world tag team titles, while Arn was part of six other tag champs. Bryant, Ole's son, aims to continue the clan's legacy of excellence

debut in August of 1993 and has already wrestled Jungle Jim Steele, Terry Taylor, Tom Zenk, and Rick Steamboat.

"Sure, I learned a lot against all of those guys, but I also have a lot of natural ability to build on," he said. "Seems like everybody is trying to develop new crazy maneuvers and submission holds today, but I think their fundamental skills are suffering because of it."

"I'm sticking to the basics right now. I think I'm already a great mat wrestler because of all my amateur experience. You might say I'm from the old school, but I think the style I use gives me an edge over everyone else."

That kind of talk sounds strange coming from a member of the Anderson family. Gene and Ole, known as The Minnesota Wrecking Crew, were never averse to breaking rules or even swearing at fans. And while Arn's toughness has made him one of today's most respected wrestlers, he has competed as a rulebreaker for most of his career.

"Just because I'm a great technical wrestler doesn't mean I'm the nicest wrestler you'll ever meet," said Bryant. "I'm my own man. I wrestle for myself, not for any fans who might be out there yelling my name."

"I can't believe the change I've seen in Arn recently. He acts like he always has to be a gentleman and do good by the fans. That's not what made him so great. He needs an attitude adjustment or something."

If Bryant expects to someday be as great as the other members of his wrestling family, he will have to continue to expand his repertoire. He is presently working on an armbar submis-



It's a second-generation rumble, as Bryant Anderson puts a chinlock on Erik Watts during a WCW card in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Bryant had an outstanding amateur career, and has been in WCW for one year.

sion hold and is also trying to perfect his shoulderbreaker. He admits to being a gym rat.

"It's something I learned from my father and Uncle Gene," he said. "You can never be too satisfied. If you think you execute a certain move well, find a way to do it better."

Bryant never lost sight of his dream of following in his father's footsteps, even when he experienced the downside of having a pro wrestler for a parent. The days when Ole returned home after an especially tough loss, for instance. After all, being a five-time former NWA World tag team champion means he also *lost* the championship five times. The way Bryant tells it, his father rebounded well after defeats and only became determined to get back on top.

The times Ole came home

after winning a title, however, the entire family swelled with pride.

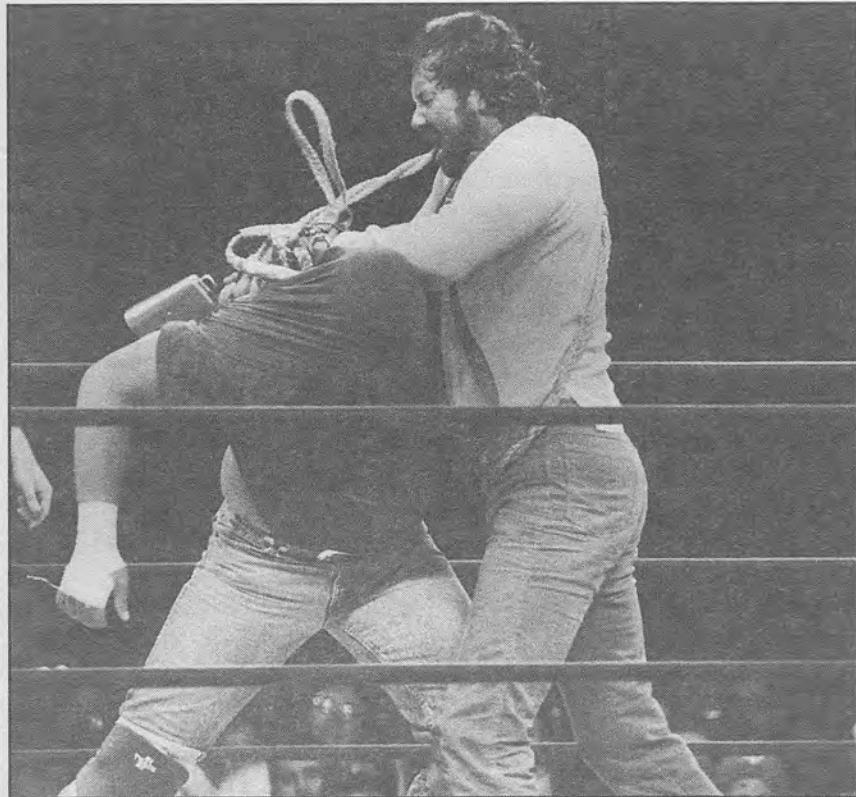
"I remember when he won the fifth NWA tag title with my uncle, in '81," Bryant recalled. "He'd bring the gold belt home and a lot of my friends would come over just to see it and touch it. That was such a high for me and for him. That's the kind of feeling I want to have someday—to have people stand in awe of what I accomplish."

That dream is probably a few years away from coming true. In wrestling, like any other sport, there are no guarantees. He might never meet the goals he is setting for himself. Bryant has a lot of hard work ahead of him, but he does have at least one key factor working in his favor.

"He's my son," said Ole. "He's an Anderson. That's all you need to know." □

Q&A

Each month,
The Wrestler will
present a "Question and
Answer" forum with an important
figure in the wrestling world. It is your
chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars
as they answer the questions
uppermost in fans' minds



Bunkhouse Buck has revenge on his mind. The Tennessee native is still furious over his mistreatment at the hands of the Rhodes family, and is taking out his frustration on Dustin in a series of violent bunkhouse matches.

Q: Most of the things we've heard about your life have come second-hand from Col. Parker ...

A: And you can believe everything he says. The Colonel is a good man.

Q: I don't doubt that, but I'd like to hear it from you. Supposedly, you watched WCW's first pay-per-view and saw Dusty Rhodes win his third Bunkhouse Stampede championship.

A: That's right, but that's not why I hate the Rhodes family.

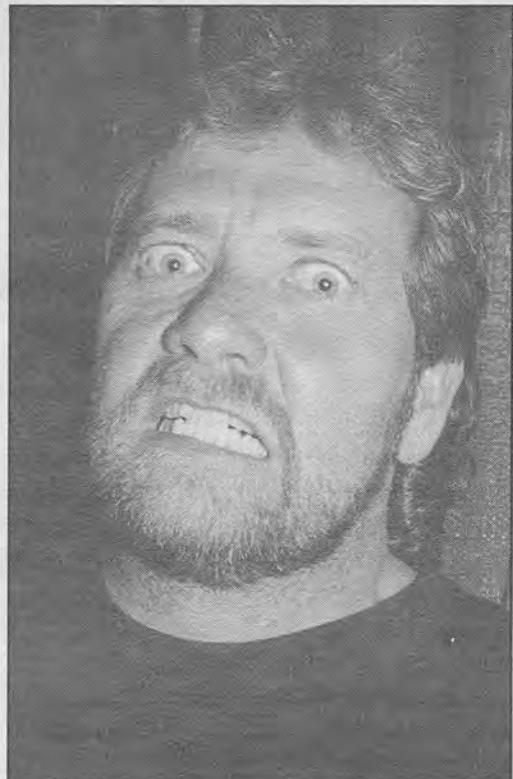
Q: Okay. I understand that, too. Maybe you can fill us in on the gym incident and the restaurant incident, too.

A: That's fine with me. If you want to listen, I'm here to talk.

Q: Right. That's the whole idea. You talk. I'll listen.

A: I was in a gym in Atlanta. Don't quite reckon what gym it was. They all blend together

BUNKHOUSE BUCK



A DIFFICULT LIFE made Bunkhouse Buck the man he is today. His grandfather sold moonshine and his grandmother ran a house of ill repute. His father trucked beer illegally from state to state. His mother was a dancer in a bar of dubious image. He was ridiculed by others because of his parents' offbeat professions, so Buck learned to fight. Sometimes he fought with his two brothers and two sisters, worked out in the gym, and learned how to wrestle. His dream of becoming a pro wrestler came true when Col. Robert Parker saw him in a barroom brawl in Bucksport, Tennessee, Buck's hometown, and quickly signed him. It's an incredible rags-to-riches story that took Bunkhouse Buck to WCW, where he billed himself as the real Bunkhouse Stampede champion. For years, Buck has harbored an intense dislike for the Rhodes family. Upon joining WCW, he immediately challenged Dustin Rhodes—son of former Bunkhouse Stampede champion Dusty Rhodes—and the two have been fighting ever since.

Col. Parker has done most of the talking for Bunkhouse Buck, so we thought it would be a good idea to sit down with the wrestler and talk about his growing career. The task fell to Senior Writer Dave Rosenbaum, who spoke with Bunkhouse Buck in Orlando, Florida.

after a while. I was getting ready to work out when this poor excuse for a man walked in, Dusty Rhodes.

Q: With his son, right?

A: That's right. Dustin, too. You know, if I looked like Dusty Rhodes, you'd never catch me walking around with my shirt off. Some people might think I'm pregnant.

Q: I guess everybody has to try and stay in shape.

A: Well, he might be trying, but he's not trying hard enough. At least he wasn't. I guess it doesn't matter now. He's just an old, retired has-been.

Q: Dusty Rhodes didn't treat you very nicely that day, did he?

A: I wasn't asking to be treated nicely. He didn't have to treat me at all. All he had to do was keep his mouth shut and leave me be. I was there to work, not to talk.



Buck is glad he signed with Col. Robert Parker, because the manager promised he'd be able to settle his feud with the Rhodes clan. It's to the point where Buck isn't interested in fighting anyone else ... except Dusty.



Blood flowed freely at Spring Stampede, but for Buck, it was worth it. He defeated Dustin at the Chicago pay-per-view, and says he's "at the breaking point" after suffering a series of insults from Dusty and his son.

Q: Dusty thought you were an attendant, right?

A: That's right, and he asked me for some water and a towel. He took his water bottle and flung it right in my face.

Q: I'm sure it was an accident.

A: You weren't there, so how can you be sure of anything? It wasn't no accident, I can assure you of that. Rhodes was trying to make a fool out of me. He was trying to show off at my expense.

Q: Dusty, right? Not Dustin.

A: That's right. Dusty. Man, I was screamin' mad. No man does that to me, so I went after him. I guess he had some bodyguards, but I really didn't notice them. I was going to kick his big, fat butt but his bodyguards got in the way.

Q: Did Dustin get in the way, too?

A: He couldn't help but get in

the way. Walked up to me like a damn yellow-bellied coward, spit in my face, and said, "Don't you go messin' around with my daddy." Just like that. He wouldn't have had the guts to spit in my face if I was standing and those three bodyguards weren't surround him. Damn disgrace.

Q: You never forgot that incident, did you?

A: Never did, never will. But what happened a few hours later was even worse.

Q: Fill us in.

A: I was eating breakfast and didn't have enough money. I tried to explain it to the waiter, but wouldn't you know it, the Rhodes were there, too, and they overheard what I was saying. You know, they just couldn't leave well enough alone. They had to make matters worse.

Q: They called you a deadbeat.

A: That's right, and I responded. Maybe I shouldn't have, but I did. Where I come from, a man spits you in the face, you get him back. He says something, he'd better be ready to back up his words. So I took a stack of pancakes and strawberry syrup and threw it at Dustin. Did the same to Dusty Rhodes. The manager broke things up. Of course, he sided with the Rhodes. He knew who they were and he wanted them eating there. I guess they drew business. Damn. Dusty Rhodes will eat anywhere. That's no recommendation for a restaurant.

Q: What happened with the bill?

A: They held me accountable for it. I spent the next eight hours on my hands and knees scrubbing the bathroom.

Q: Eight hours? Heck, at \$3.50 an hour, that's \$28. Your bill wasn't

that big.

A: It was either that or they were gonna call the police. I didn't need no trouble with the law.

Q: What did you learn from that day?

A: Nothing. I got incentive to get revenge against the Rhodes family. And when I saw Dusty win that Bunkhouse Stampede, it made me even madder. That's why when Col. Parker offered to sign me up, the first thing I said to him was, "Get me a match against Rhodes." Man, he delivered.

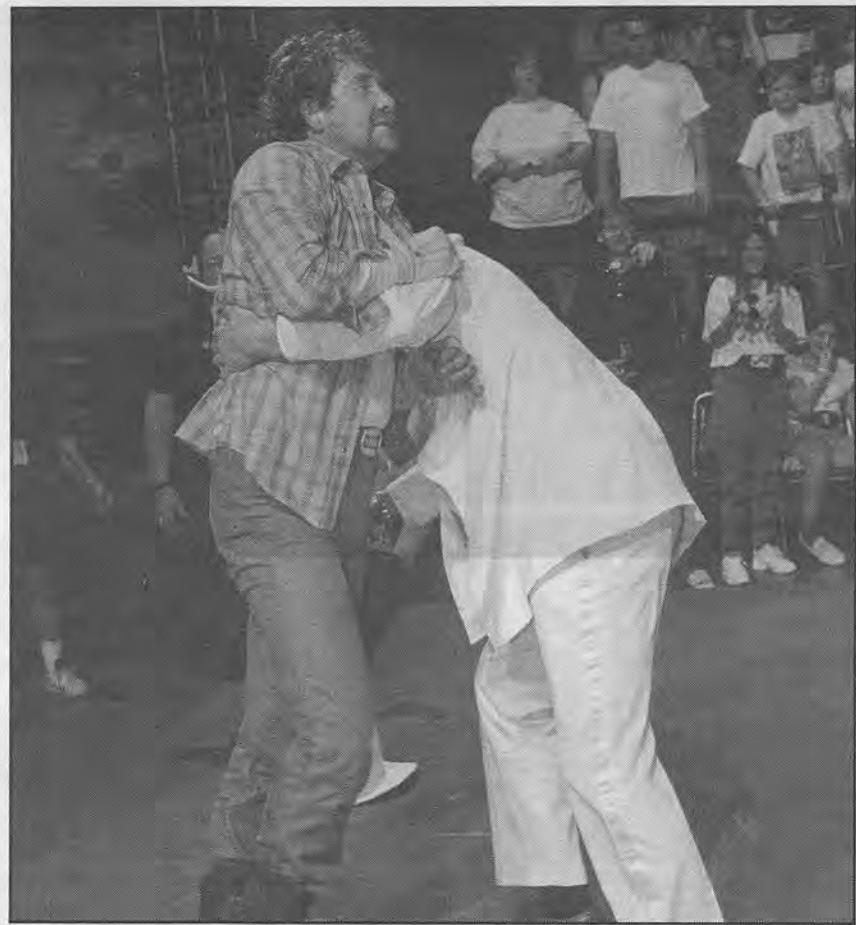
Q: The Colonel has a reputation for delivering on his promises.

A: So I've heard and he delivered. Now I'm gonna deliver. You know, me and Dustin Rhodes have different types of incentive. He wants to beat me, but not so badly that he'll risk his career for it. I know what he wants. He wants to win the World title. Well, I'm different. All I want to do is kick Dustin Rhodes' butt. That's what'd make me happy. And if you don't believe me, just ask the Colonel. I told him one thing: Get me Dustin and I don't care about anything else. Of course, I wouldn't mind whipping his father's hide, too.

Q: You know, this could mean trouble for Dustin. Even if he decides he no longer wants to wrestle you ...

A: I'm gonna want to wrestle him, and I don't care if it's a scheduled match or not. The worst thing that ever happened to Dustin Rhodes was Col. Parker walking into that bar and finding me in a fight. Right there, that was the turning point of his life.

Q: Wouldn't beating Dustin in a Bunkhouse Stampede match be enough?



A: It wouldn't have been if they stopped right there after what happened in the gym, but it got worse and worse, and now they're heaping insult upon insult. You can only do so much of that to a man before he reaches the breaking point. I'm there.

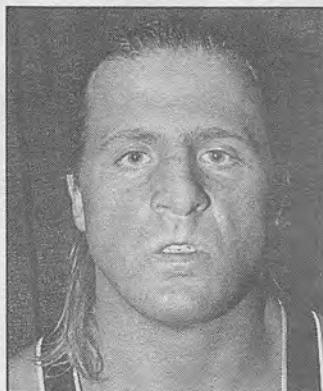
Q: But don't you have any other aspirations? Let's face it, you wanted to be a wrestler long before you wanted a piece of Dustin Rhodes.

A: Titles will come after I'm done with Dustin Rhodes and not a minute before. There's plenty of time for me to do everything. That's what Rhodes doesn't understand. I'm taking things one body at a time. First Rhodes. Then the rest. I'll be champion. And that belt'll be made out of Dustin Rhodes' hide, mark my words. □

Buck is so determined to destroy the Rhodes family that he sometimes must be restrained by Parker, the man who gave him the chance to get his revenge on the family in the first place!

THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

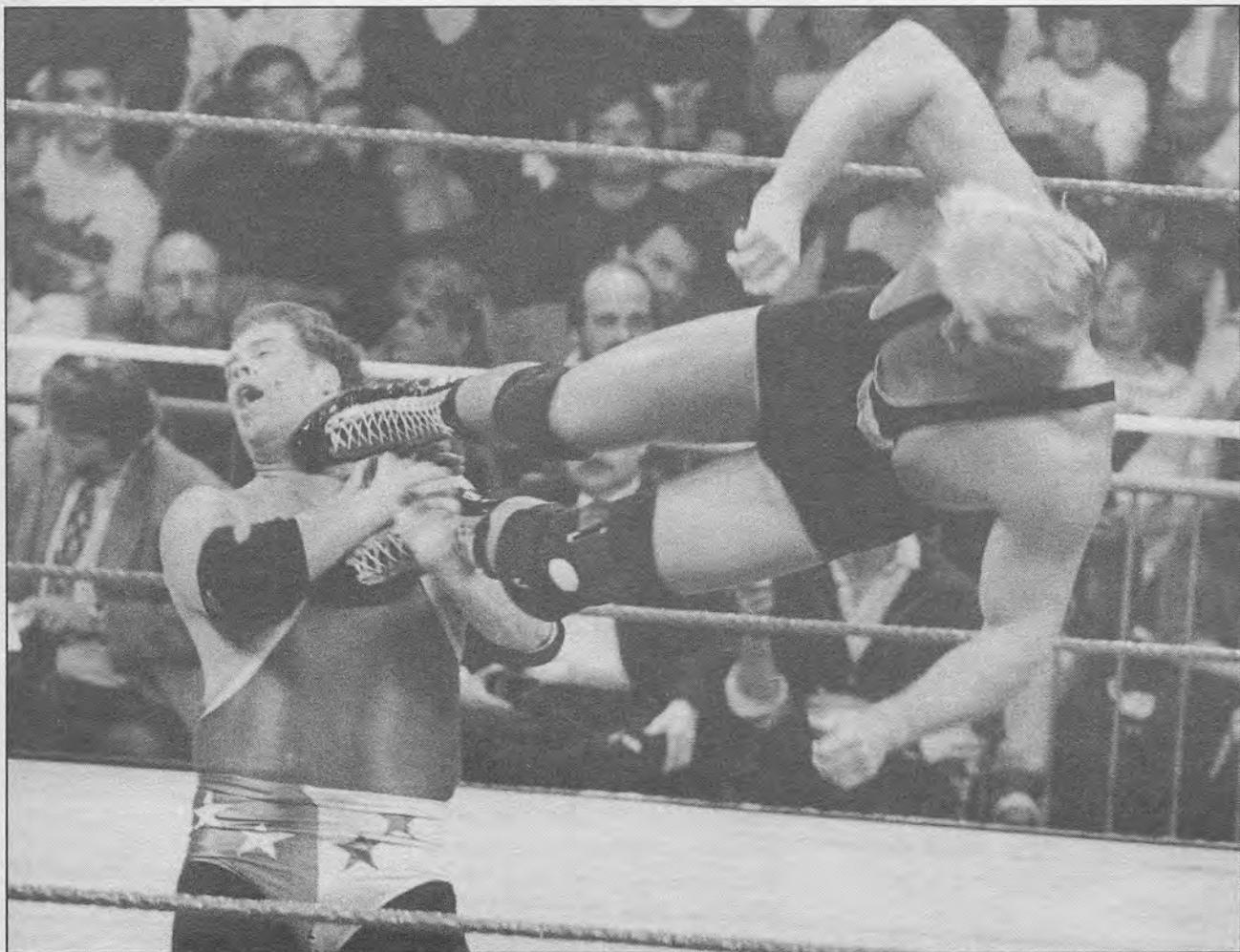
RAY



OWEN HART

Each month

THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts will offer their candid opinions of one of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming youngster or an established superstar in his own right, our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



Owen Hart has long been one of the continent's premier aerial wrestlers. But "The Rocket" wasn't able to reach elite status until he targeted his brother Bret. The consensus of the "X-Ray" panel is that he should put aside his differences with Bret, and allow his skills to speak for themselves.



CAPT. LOU ALBANO

"It makes the Captain sad to see the Hart family's laundry all being aired in public, daddy, and I wish Owen could reconcile with Bret and the rest of the Calgary clan. I'm not too high on Owen as a person, but as a wrestler—now that's something else. He's very skilled, one of the finest aerial wrestlers on this continent, smart and determined. Is he as good as Bret? No, but then, who is? People would recognize Owen's greatness if he wasn't named Hart."

Capt. Lou Albano has led 13 tag teams—most recently The Headshrinkers—to a record 17 WWF World tag team titles.



KILLER KOWALSKI

"You can argue whether or not Owen did the right thing personally by breaking away from his family. But for his wrestling, it was precisely what he needed. For a long time, I thought he was content to live in Bret's shadow and was underutilizing his considerable talent. Rulebreaking freed him from those restrictions, let his skills shine through. Even if he becomes a fan favorite again, the time he's spending as a rulebreaker will help him in the long run."

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rule-breakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.



DORY FUNK JR.

"I've wrestled my brother Terry, but we never feuded. I'm glad of that. I don't like seeing Owen feud with Bret, because he's become so single-minded that he may be hurting his career. If Owen played his cards right, I think he could beat Diesel for the Intercontinental title. He does some things better than Bret—*aerial ability*, for instance. If Owen channels his intensity toward opponents other than Bret, he'll have a superb career in the WWF."

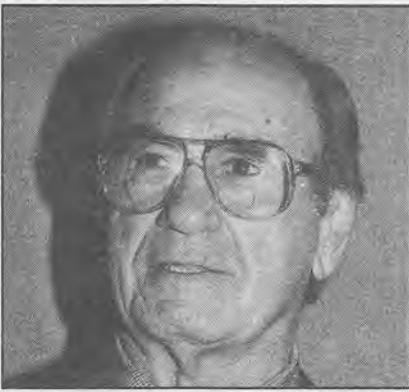
Dory Funk Jr. held the NWA World championship from 1969 to 1973. He still wrestles from time to time.



FABULOUS MOOLAH

"Owen was a man possessed at WrestleMania, and went after Bret with a fury I've rarely seen in any wrestler. He's always had the ability to become a big star, but maybe he doubted himself. Not anymore, hon! Like anyone trained by Stu Hart, he's technically sound and a smart competitor. All he needed was something to go after, dearie, like a greyhound chasing a mechanical rabbit. Who'd have ever thought that rabbit would be his big brother Bret?"

Fabulous Moolah, the finest woman wrestler in history, held the World title for 28 years. She trains wrestlers in Columbia, South Carolina.



LOU THESZ

"Owen's made himself a top-level wrestler, but I'm not sure the cost was worth it. Alienating yourself from the rest of your family is an awfully tough road to travel. I think Owen became so jealous of Bret's success that he forgot he had built a fine career in his own right. So he's not the best wrestler in his family? He's still better than all but a few wrestlers anywhere. That's nothing to be ashamed of. Most wrestlers would love to be in Owen's shoes."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-around wrestler ever.



GORDON SOLIE

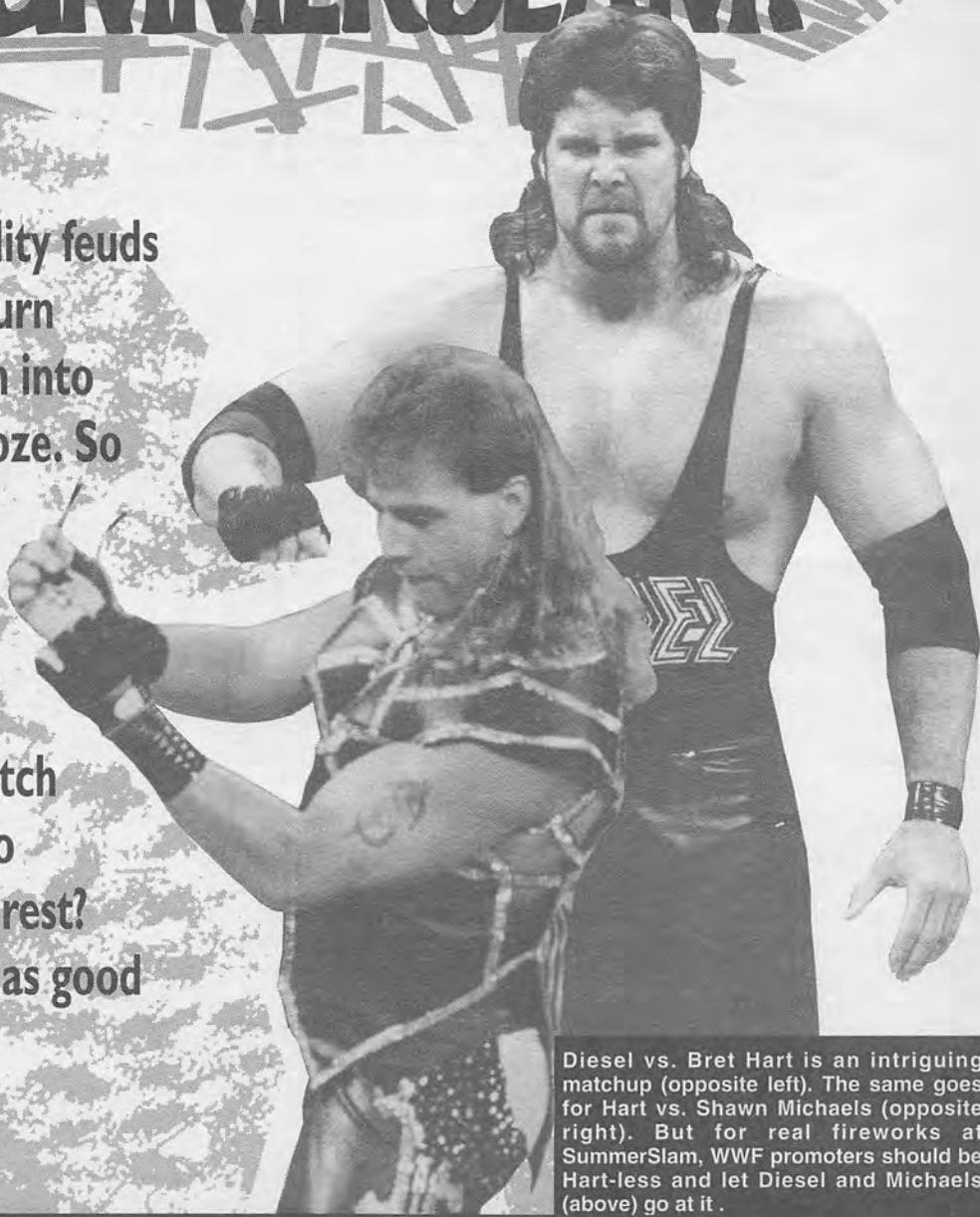
"There have been many outstanding brother acts in wrestling, and sometimes the less-heralded sibling can't stand playing second fiddle. That apparently is Owen's predicament. On his own, he's shown what he can do. Remember, he won a singles title in Memphis last summer. He's younger than Bret, so his star is still rising. Once he realizes people see him as a fine wrestler and not just Bret's brother, he may discover that rulebreaking doesn't really suit him."

Gordon Solie has expertly analyzed pro wrestling on television for 35 years. He periodically appears on WCW broadcasts.

WWF Promoters, Wake Up!

DIESEL MUST WRESTLE MICHAELS AT SUMMERSLAM!

A lack of quality feuds threaten to turn SummerSlam into SummerSnooze. So why won't the WWF sign Shawn Michaels vs. Diesel—a match guaranteed to generate interest? Your guess is as good as ours



Diesel vs. Bret Hart is an intriguing matchup (opposite left). The same goes for Hart vs. Shawn Michaels (opposite right). But for real fireworks at SummerSlam, WWF promoters should be Hart-less and let Diesel and Michaels (above) go at it.

By Eddie Ellner

FRIENDSHIP IS A tenuous, flimsy thing in the turbulent world of pro wrestling, and not because wrestlers are necessarily unfriendly.

"I have lots of friends," says veteran Ron Simmons. "Dozens of 'em."

And how many of Simmons' friends are wrestlers? "A lot of them," he says. "At least four I can think of off the top of my head—wait, not him, not after he dissed me in Tulsa. Three. I have three very close friends—though I don't know if I would call him a real friend. Better make it two. Absolutely. Well..."

Simmons was not playing for laughs. The rank and file of pro

wrestling can't afford to be too friendly with one another. Even the usually sure-footed mentor-student relationship, so nourishing in other professional sports, cannot endure in an environment where teacher and pupil often compete on the same battlefield.

The story of Diesel and Shawn Michaels illustrates the difficulty in maintaining a relationship when you share similar goals. In this story, Michaels played the part of the teacher. But at some point, the student gets tired of listening. And the teacher then wonders if he has taught too much.

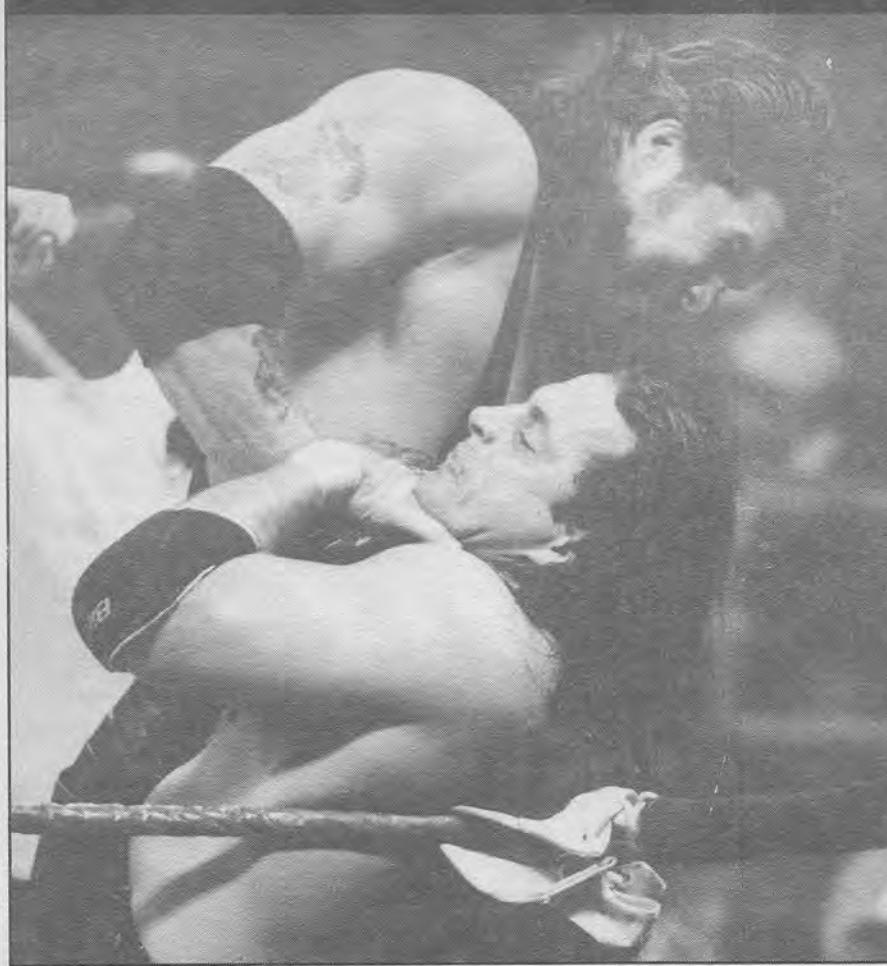
Shawn Michaels befriended Diesel upon his arrival in the WWF, and was generous in sharing his knowledge of local customs.

"The WWF is a difficult place to work for a newcomer," said one wrestler who knows from experience. "To have someone showing you the ropes is an advantage you cannot underestimate."

Diesel, a powerhouse grappler who had struggled as Vinnie Vegas in WCW, thrived under Michaels' wing. He gained confidence and experience as a wrestler while also serving as Michaels' bodyguard.

Diesel's development was spectacular, and soon his name appeared on the short list of title contenders. Still, Diesel knew his main job was to protect Michaels, as he was in constant danger from wrestlers looking to displace him as Intercontinental champion. The two trained and socialized together.





In the course of several months, Diesel rapidly shed all vestiges of his prior status as WCW mid-card competitor Vinnie Vegas. The seven-footer is wrestling better than ever, thanks largely to Michaels' tutelage.

er, and each seemed to benefit equally from the alliance.

Then two matches changed the course of their professional lives: Michaels was stripped of his Intercontinental title, eventually won by Razor Ramon, and several months later, Diesel downed Ramon for the very same belt. Suddenly, student had usurped teacher. And though teacher refused to comment, reports from Michaels' camp described a wrestler raging with frustration.

"I'm telling you," said a source close to Michaels, "it's eating him up. There is no one he wants to see wear his belt less than Diesel. He's goin' nuts."

Spokesmen for Michaels and Diesel insist there is no bad blood between them. When asked why

Michaels won't make a public statement about his friend's title reign, the spokesman said, "Shawn wants to concentrate on his wrestling. He feels anything said at this time would be counterproductive to all involved."

In other words, he's mad as hell and doesn't want to talk about it anymore.

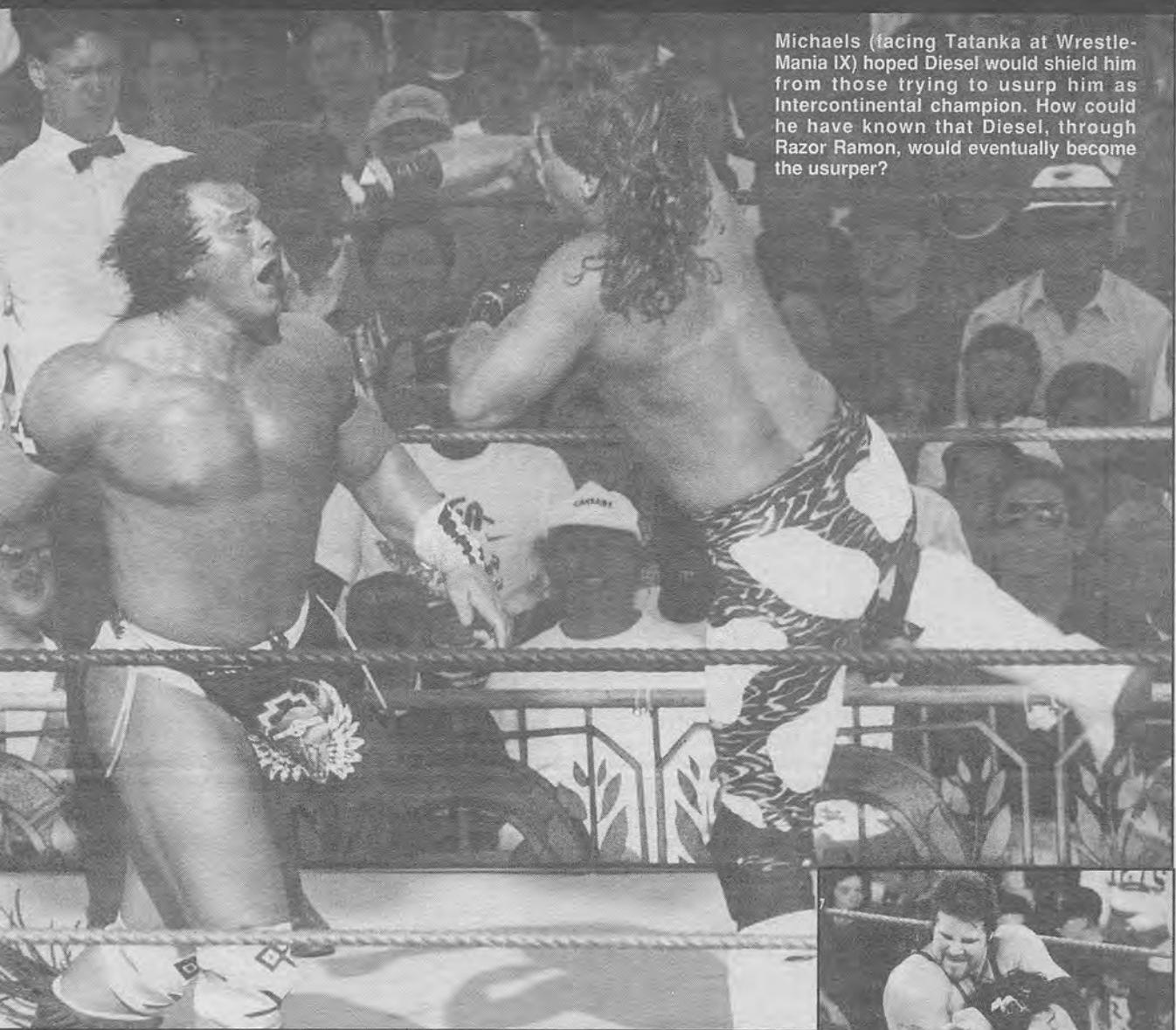
Word from Diesel's camp was no more instructive. In a prepared statement, Diesel's representative said, "As Intercontinental champion, Diesel will not be drawn into negative associations that might undermine his title reign." Their cryptic phraseology should provide WWF promoters with all the information they need to select a SummerSlam challenger to the I-C championship. Diesel vs. Shawn



Michaels is staring them in the face, like a gift from the promoter gods.

Besides big box office, a series of matches between Michaels and Diesel would actually diffuse the tension existing between the two. "It's always better to work things out in the ring than in the media," reminds former WWF World champion Pedro Morales, whose brief feud with Bruno Sammartino in 1972 ended with a handshake after their historic Shea Stadium match.

"There is a respect that exists between all wrestlers, especially Diesel and Michaels," adds WWF



Michaels (facing Tatanka at WrestleMania IX) hoped Diesel would shield him from those trying to usurp him as Intercontinental champion. How could he have known that Diesel, through Razor Ramon, would eventually become the usurper?

expert Thomas Pilliard. "If they wrestled, no matter who won, after the match they would shake hands and get on with their lives. Right now they're treading the artificially polite, politically correct line and when that goes on for too long, it can really explode."

Already there are small indications. For one, the formerly inseparable pals never train or socialize together.

"They used to come in here all the time together," said gymnasium owner Andy Dubloon. "You'd never see one without the other."

"They ate here two, three nights a week easy," complained

pub owner Frazier McDonald. "I never see either of them anymore. I'm telling you, there's bad blood brewing there. You watch."

Right now SummerSlam, the WWF's biggest summer event, is a dead card, with nothing but a pair of Undertakers to carry it. Michaels and Diesel provide all the elements of great wrestling. They know each other's style, and as former allies will stop at nothing to prove each is the better man.

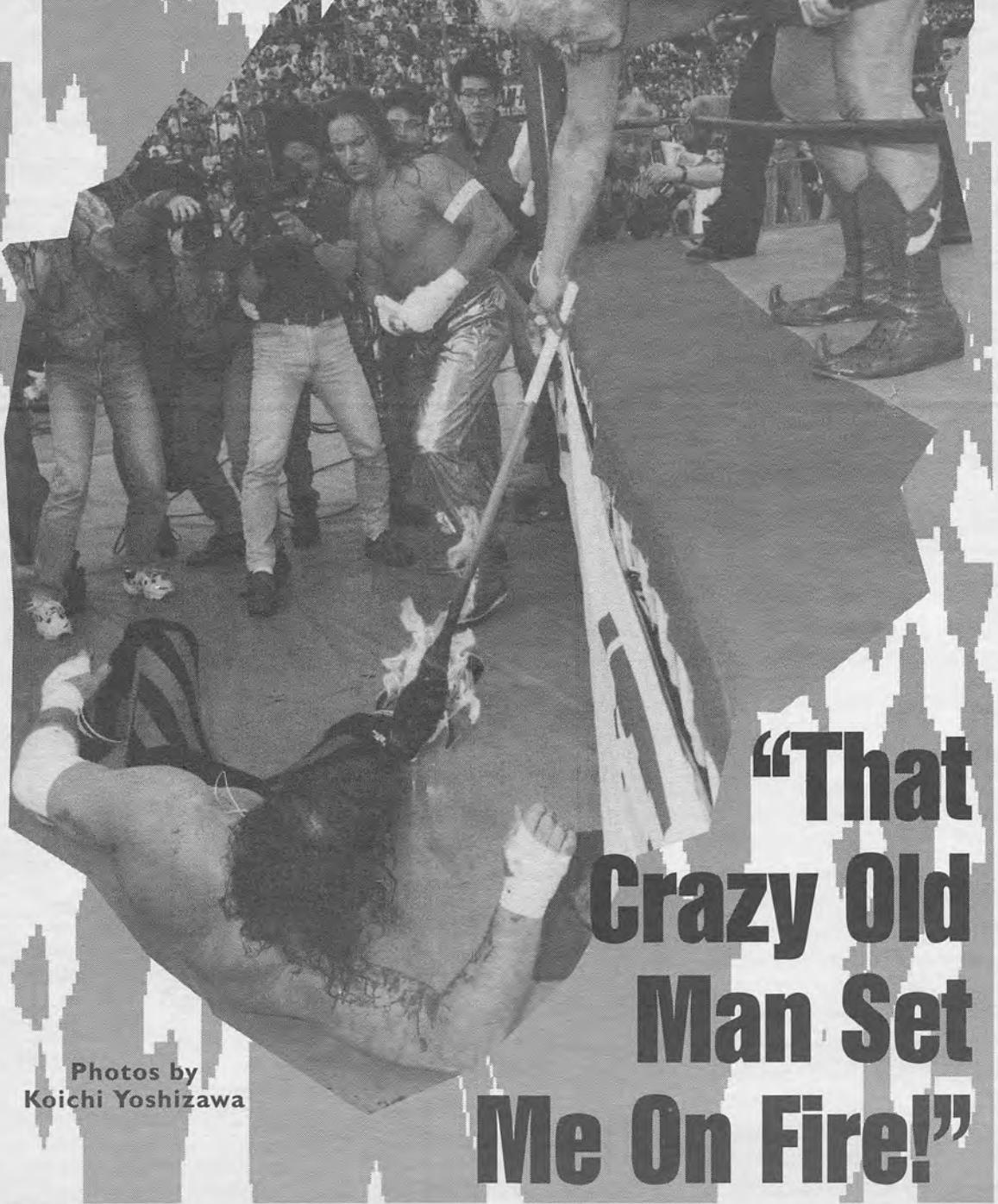
"There's nothing more vicious or more entertaining than a match between ex-friends," says Morales.

What are they waiting for? □



Michaels unwittingly created a monster when he began training Diesel. The big man, one of the few wrestlers who can dwarf Razor Ramon, eventually took the I-C belt from the "Bad Guy"—much to Michaels' rumored chagrin.

TERRY FUNK VS. THE SHEIK



**“That
Crazy Old
Man Set
Me On Fire!”**

Photos by
Koichi Yoshizawa

Both Terry Funk and The Sheik will go a long way to defeat an opponent. But even those accustomed to their mayhem were shocked by what happened in Japan recently. Has Sheik lost it? And what will Funk do for revenge?

By Andy Rodriguez

ANGER. IT BURNS so bright in the eyes of every man who steps through the ropes. Without it, wrestling would be drained of its lifeblood.

Terry Funk is angrier than most. Whenever he competes, his opponent knows he'll have to overcome the Texan's amazing intensity combined with what may be called "orneryness." A lot of good athletes can't handle the pressure. It's just too much for them to take.

It isn't too much for The Sheik, however. Despite his advanced age, the Arabian nightmare gladly takes on anything a man like Funk can unleash. Then he fights back with his own brand of anger.

Sometimes, that's how it works. Usually, though, Sheik is the one who takes the offensive. He doesn't give his opponents a chance to strike

first. He takes to the ring and hits them—hard.

In Japan recently, Funk and Sheik squared off. Characteristically, Sheik hit first and hit hard.

How hard?

He set Funk's leg on fire!

"Did you see that? Did you see that?" Funk screamed to a group of reporters in the locker room after the contest. "That crazy old man set me on fire! On fire! What the hell was he thinking? What the hell was going through his mind?"

Not even an infamous wild-man like Funk could believe what Sheik had done. Indeed, it was among the most heinous acts ever committed in a wrestling ring. It stunned even the hardened Japanese fans who have seen Sheik compete in the ring surrounded by fire. The ring nearly melted. Obviously, Sheik's passion did not.

What everyone did expect was a wild match. Everyone knew these two ring legends would try to tear each other apart. Everyone also knew something unexpected probably would happen, especially considering that Sheik had been accompanied to the ring by his equally crazed protege, Sabu. And any wrestling fan worth his or her salt knows about the Funk-Sabu rivalry.

Still, what they saw made them sick.

"It was very frightening," reported our Japanese correspondent, Koichi Yoshizawa. "To see a man's body on fire was awful. Even for The Sheik, it was horrible. Though most of us despise Sheik, we are fascinated by him. We wonder continuously what he will do next. After tonight,



For Sheik, "fighting fire with fire" isn't merely a figure of speech. The ageless master of mayhem prepares to set Funk's chances of winning up in flames.



Funk prefers to conduct his violence the old-fashioned way. He picked up a chair at the crowded baseball stadium and used it on Sheik as nearby fans try to pull themselves out of the line of fire.



Stick a fork in Funk—he's done. Already a bloody mess, Funk receives yet more pain from the equally bloody Sheik, who tries to draw more carnage from Funk's shredded forehead.

however, one hates to imagine what he will do next."

The rules were simple enough: The victor had to win by knockout. Considering the combatants, it was almost a mundane stipulation. One might have anticipated a barbed-wire match or even a Texas death match. Win by knockout was all either man had to do.

Naturally, each tried to do more than knock out his opponent. They brawled intensely. Funk bled heavily. The Sheik, with Sabu at his side, fought with a purpose that belied his age. No matter what, the bout at least was going to be remembered as a classic.

Then came the fire.

While Funk and Sheik battled near the ropes, Sabu took a can of lighter fluid and poured the contents on Funk's leg. The Texan barely realized what had happened when Sheik lit a match and tossed it at Funk's exposed limb. Though stricken with horror, Funk scrambled to his feet and put out the fire within seconds.

The blaze was gone. What remained, aside from the memory of a terrible sight, was the sickening odor of flesh and hair, an odor that made several ringside fans leave for the restrooms. It made Funk feel sick, too.

"I just couldn't believe what was going on," he recalled. "I was almost in shock. I guess some force inside me took over and made sure I got that fire put out right away. I was lucky I only lost a little bit of skin. Who wants to guess what could've happened?"

"I've done some pretty nasty things in that ring, but I can't imagine I'd ever stoop so low as to set a man on fire.

The Sheik isn't a man, he's a demon!"

The "demon" and his nefarious protege stood in the opposite locker room, laughing. What to most was a horrifying act was to them a lark. In their minds, they had done nothing wrong. They were just having fun.

"Mr. Terry Funk fancies himself a very tough and rugged man," Sabu said through an interpreter. "There is no doubt he's scares the majority of men who call themselves professional wrestlers, but The Sheik is no ordinary man. He is the greatest who has ever competed, and he has been proving that for many years. I am honored to learn from him.

"The sight of Funk's leg in flames horrified you, but didn't you also find it compelling? You are all in awe of a man who will do whatever he has to to survive. The Sheik not only survives, he conquers everyone he faces. Tonight, Funk's spirit was conquered. Funk once was a great athlete. Now he is a shell of a man. There is the measure of The Sheik's greatness!"

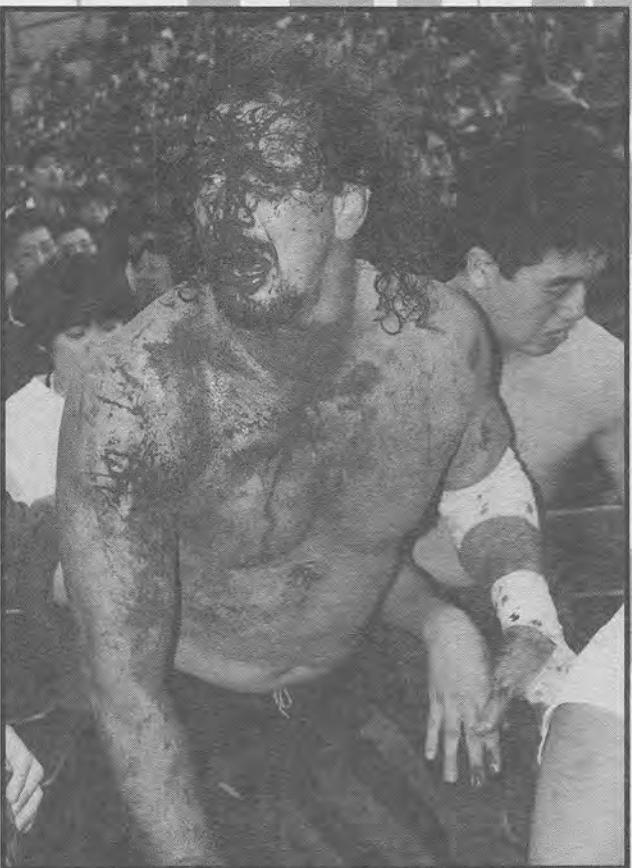
Funk is hardly a shell of a man. He is, instead, someone who carefully and coldly is planning revenge.

"Already tonight," he said, "I have guys come over to me and tell me to forget about Sheik. 'Stay away from him,' they say. 'See how dangerous he is.' Of course I don't intend to let it go like this. Somebody in this sport has got to stand up and put a guy like that out of business. After tonight, I'm the person to do it. And if that little punk Sabu gets in my way, I'll squash him, too!"

Oh, by the way, Funk won the match. □



Sheik's eligible to collect Social Security, while Funk turned 50 at the end of June. You would never know it from the intense way both wrestlers go about their business.



Funk waits for medical assistance after Sheik pummeled him into a bloody mess. He could take solace in that he won the match despite Sheik's repeated torture.

THE UNDERTAKER

TWO BODIES,
ONE SOUL

By Dave Rosenbaum

THERE ARE SO many mysteries about The Undertaker, and for every mystery there is a fact.

Mystery: What's in Paul Bearer's urn?

Fact: Whatever it is has an empowering effect on The Undertaker.

Mystery: Did The Undertaker die at the Royal Rumble and rise to the heavens?

Fact: Whatever he did, he's back.

Mystery: Is The Undertaker good or evil?

Fact: Whatever he is, The Undertaker won the WWF World title as a rulebreaker and hasn't come close to it as a fan favorite.

Facts and mysteries. By examining both, we can unravel the latest plot regarding The Undertaker. Because there are two more facts we haven't mentioned and both of them are mysterious.

Fact: On May 7 in Yokohama, Japan, The Undertaker returned to wrestling after a long lay-off—excuse the pun—and exacted his revenge against Yokozuna.

Fact: More than two weeks later in the United States, Ted DiBiase resurrected The Undertaker for a card in Erie, Pennsylvania.

"I'm the one who originally

brought The Undertaker into the WWF, and I'm the only one who could bring him back from the dead," DiBiase said at the unveiling. "I now own the key to the power of The Undertaker."

The timing of these appearances left two questions unanswered: Why did DiBiase say he was unveiling Undertaker when Undertaker wrestled earlier in the month in Japan?

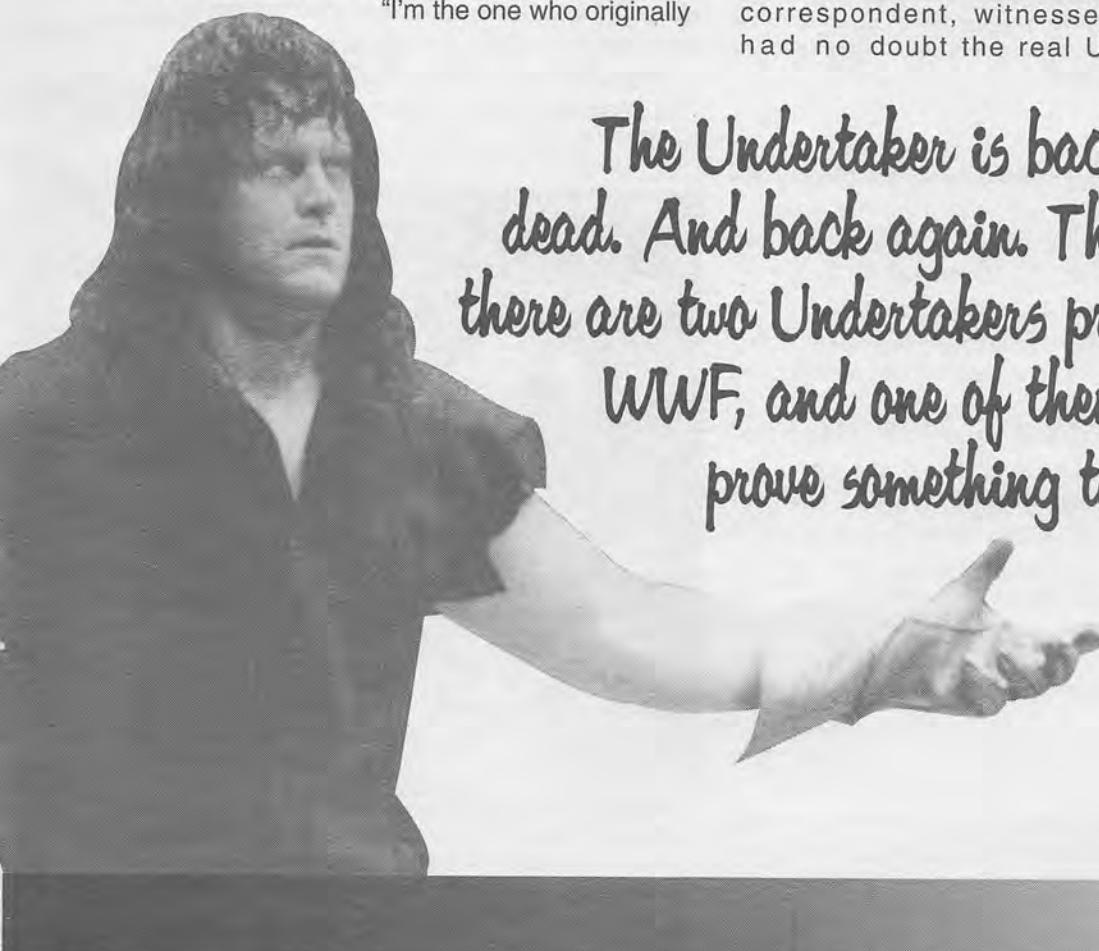
And was The Undertaker that wrestled in Japan the same Undertaker that wrestled later in the U.S.?

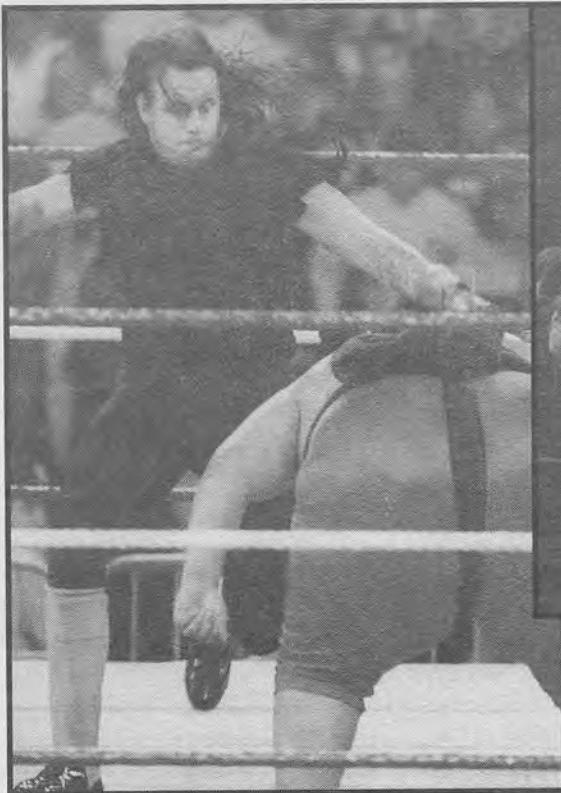
These questions have shocking answers, revealed only after an extensive and dangerous investigation by the staff of **THE WRESTLER**. We traced The Undertaker's movements from January to May, spoke with people who saw him in Japan, and then traced DiBiase's movements in May.

After gathering the facts and speaking with the witnesses, we reached one undeniable fact: There are two Undertakers.

The first Undertaker—the real one—did, indeed, mysteriously disappear after the Royal Rumble and reappeared against Yokozuna in Japan. Koichi Yoshizawa, **THE WRESTLER**'s Japan correspondent, witnessed the match and had no doubt the real Undertaker was in

The Undertaker is back from the dead. And back again. That's right—there are two Undertakers prowling the WWF, and one of them is out to prove something to the other





As a fan favorite, Undertaker has become incredibly popular. But it may have happened at the cost of his intimidation. Most opponents no longer fear the thought of meeting him.

the ring on May 7.

The second Undertaker—as phony as DiBiase's two-dollar bills—is a former wrestler on the independent circuit who idolized The Undertaker. The old Undertaker, the one feared by opponents and hated by the fans. The one that beat Hulk Hogan for the WWF World title in 1991 and caused unprecedented controversy.

But he can't stand what The Undertaker became and doesn't understand the contradiction of evil begetting good. So this wrestler took on The Undertaker's persona and is out to prove that evil rules, that being a fan favorite will get the real Undertaker nowhere.

This independent wrestler—whose name was not revealed to us—does not want to destroy The Undertaker. Nor does he want to overshadow him. He only wants to teach The Undertaker a lesson. Then he will return to where he came from ... wherever that is.

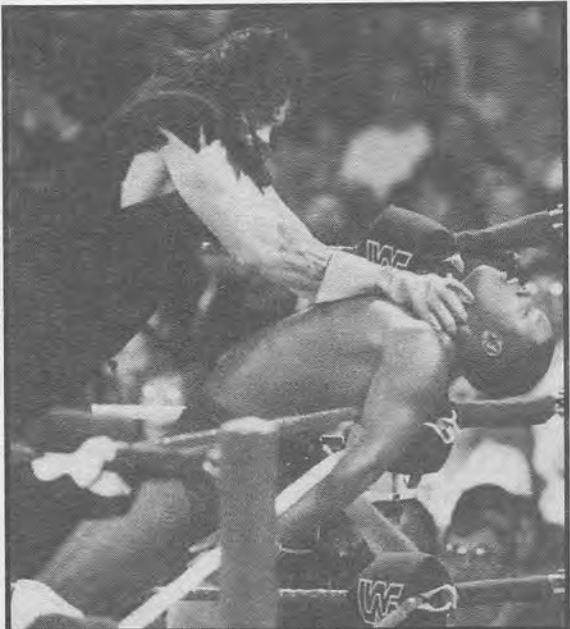
"It's a crazy situation," said one of our sources. "It's definitely a case of a fan going too far in his idolization of a wrestler, except in this case the fan is a wrestler and he has the



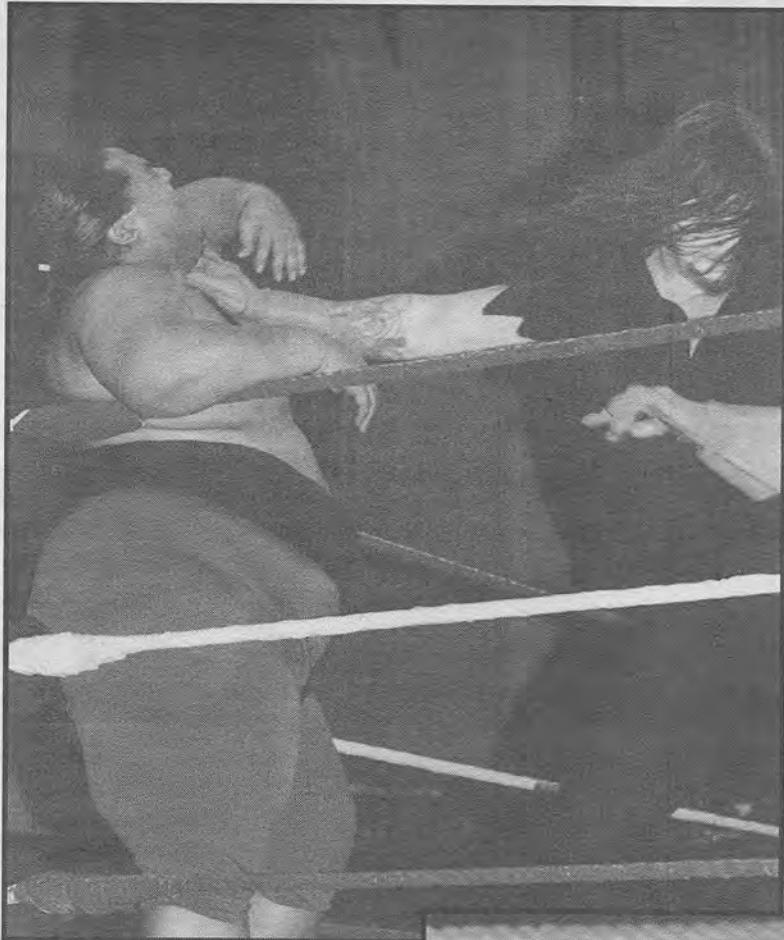
After several months out of the ring, Undertaker re-emerged in May on the WWF's tour of Japan. There was no doubt among those who were there that this was the genuine article.

size and ability to make his point. He also knew DiBiase would be more than willing to go along with his plan. DiBiase loves power."

The ultimate moment will arrive when both Undertakers meet in the ring in the ultimate battle of good vs. evil. Then, we will learn for



Three years ago, The Undertaker was a rulebreaker who briefly captured the WWF World title. It's this earlier persona whom DiBiase's pseudo-'Taker is trying desperately to resurrect.



The second Undertaker is hoping his presence can show the original he should change his ways and revert to the rule-breaking ways that made him a force in the WWF.

sure whether both can co-exist in one man.

The impostor Undertaker—we'll call him Undertaker II—has an interesting point. When The Undertaker arrived in the WWF, mystery and fear of the great beyond were his greatest weapons. Undertaker forced fans and opponents to face the prospect of death. That's not easy for anyone.

Wrestlers feared getting locked in The Undertaker's casket. Paul Bearer's urn seemed to carry great power. Undertaker's killer instinct was literally a killer instinct.

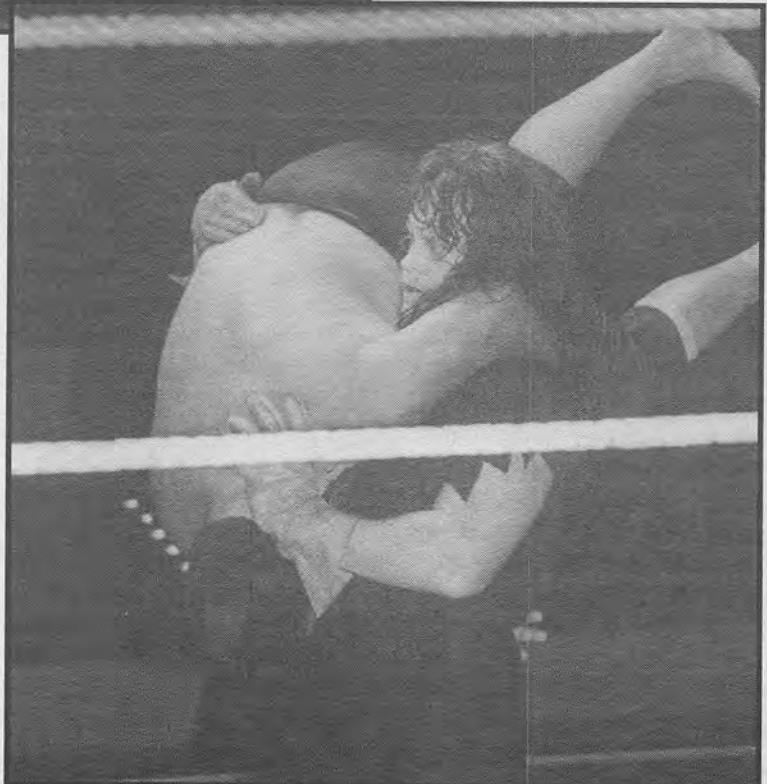
That changed when The Undertaker became a fan favorite. He no longer used

the fear of death to intimidate fans and opponents. He was no worse than your friendly neighborhood mortician. Weird but kind.

Undertaker II was amazed by how his idol used the mind's great powers to win matches and, in fact, win the World title for six days. Undertaker's incredible come-backs—fueled by the urn's power—validated what everyone suspected but refused to believe: that Undertaker was from the living dead.

In Stephen King's novels, the clash of two great powers inevitably means doom for all involved. Undertaker II plans on going back where he came from. If he can.

Because who knows what happens when two bodies battle for one soul? It could be heaven on earth. It could be hell. □



Undertaker's fearlessness and indestructability are still major parts of his arsenal. They may also prove to be the difference should he finally challenge his powerful imitator.

CACTUS' MANIACAL MESSAGE: "TAKE ANOTHER PIECE OF MY BODY—

By Dave Rosenbaum

AFTER ANOTHER DAY at the office, Cactus Jack stared straight into his bathroom mirror and removed a bandage from his arm, pulling off a scab that seemed to cover half an acre.

No pain showed on his face after this apparently painful maneuver, although it's necessary to put the man and the action in perspective.

"Who cares?" growled Cactus as blood dripped onto the bathroom floor. "Think this hurts? I've had chairs dropped on my head. I've been piledriven onto cement. That maniac [Brian] Knobs used my body to tear apart a souvenir stand. This hurts? You've gotta be kidding me."

Indeed, a walk around Cactus Jack's Atlanta apartment reveals the evidence of bumps and bruises, cuts and scrapes, breaks and concussions. Not one for tidiness, Cactus Jack leaves bandages and wrapping lying around his apartment. It looks like the emergency room at Atlanta General before the custodial crew arrives. A visitor notices a strange object next to him on the couch.

"What's this?" he asks.

"Oh. That's another scab," comes Jack's matter-of-fact reply. The visitor jumps away.

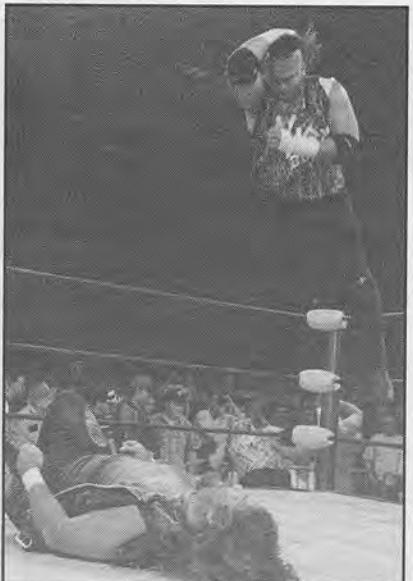
But it's obvious there's nothing



I'LL HAVE LESS TO LOSE!"



So what if Jerry Sags is planning a non-hockey form of high-sticking (above)? So what if he elbows him from the top turnbuckle (below)? Cactus Jack can take the punishment. He always has.



matter-of-fact about Jack's condition. While he hides it well around other wrestlers, he walks with a constant limp. He complains about a constant ringing in his ears (make that ear) and often seems disoriented. It's not unusual for Jack to start bleeding from the forehead while carrying out a normal conversation.

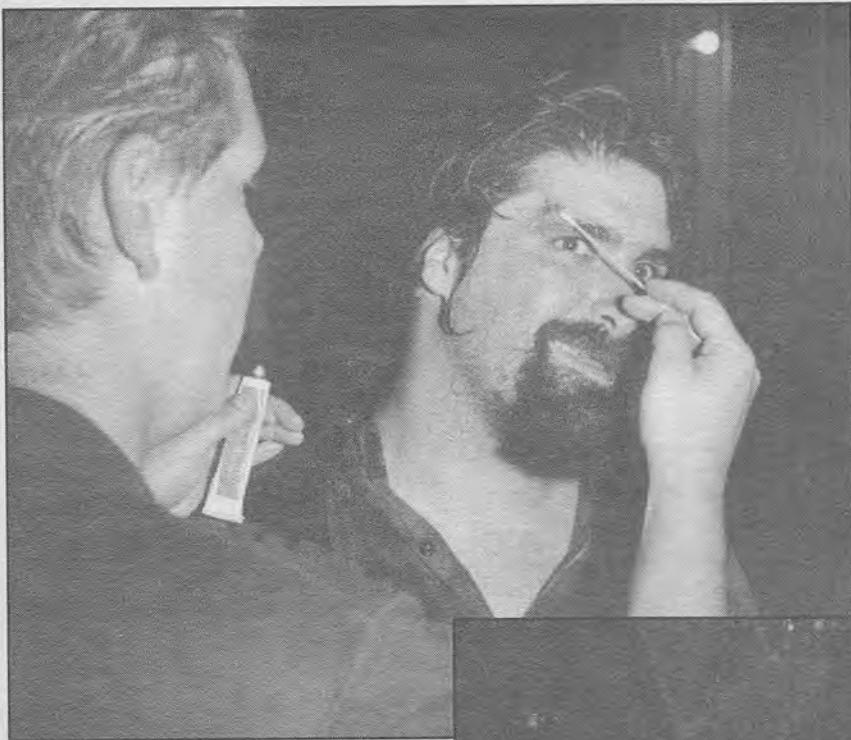
His reaction? It's just part of life. For Cactus Jack, bleeding is like going to the bathroom. The headaches are always there, so who notices? Cactus knows he made his own bed by haphazardly challenging just about every wrestler in WCW. Now he's lying in it, bruised and battered but willingly moving on.

"Look at my ear," Cactus said, pointing to the one that's half-missing. "When people ask me, I tell them I have 20-10 hearing. Get it? Perfect in one ear, half an ear in the other. (Actually, Cactus didn't lose any of his hearing, although the mishap affected his sense of balance for a while.)

"Think it matters? Think again. Ever see those demolition derbies? They get rid of everything that's in the way so there's less to lose. That's the way I feel about this old body. Take another piece. I'll have less to lose."

It's the opposite of no pain, no gain. This time, it's no gain, no pain. If the ear doesn't grow

Sticks and stones may break his bones, but they'll never stop Cactus Jack. A lifetime of withstanding physical pain has made him invincible. And if you want to take another shot at Cactus, go right ahead



Jack doesn't mind absorbing a lot of punishment, which he's done against Big Van Vader numerous times (right). As a result, WCW medical attendants have had plenty of experience administering to Cactus' array of cuts and bruises (above).

back—and it won't—he at least won't have to go through the excruciating pain of losing it again.

That's not to say Cactus is willing to give up an arm or a leg.

"I need both of them," he said.

But if somebody wants the rest of his ear, he can have it. Rip off a finger, tear off a toe, knock out a few more teeth. He's already well below the regulation 32.

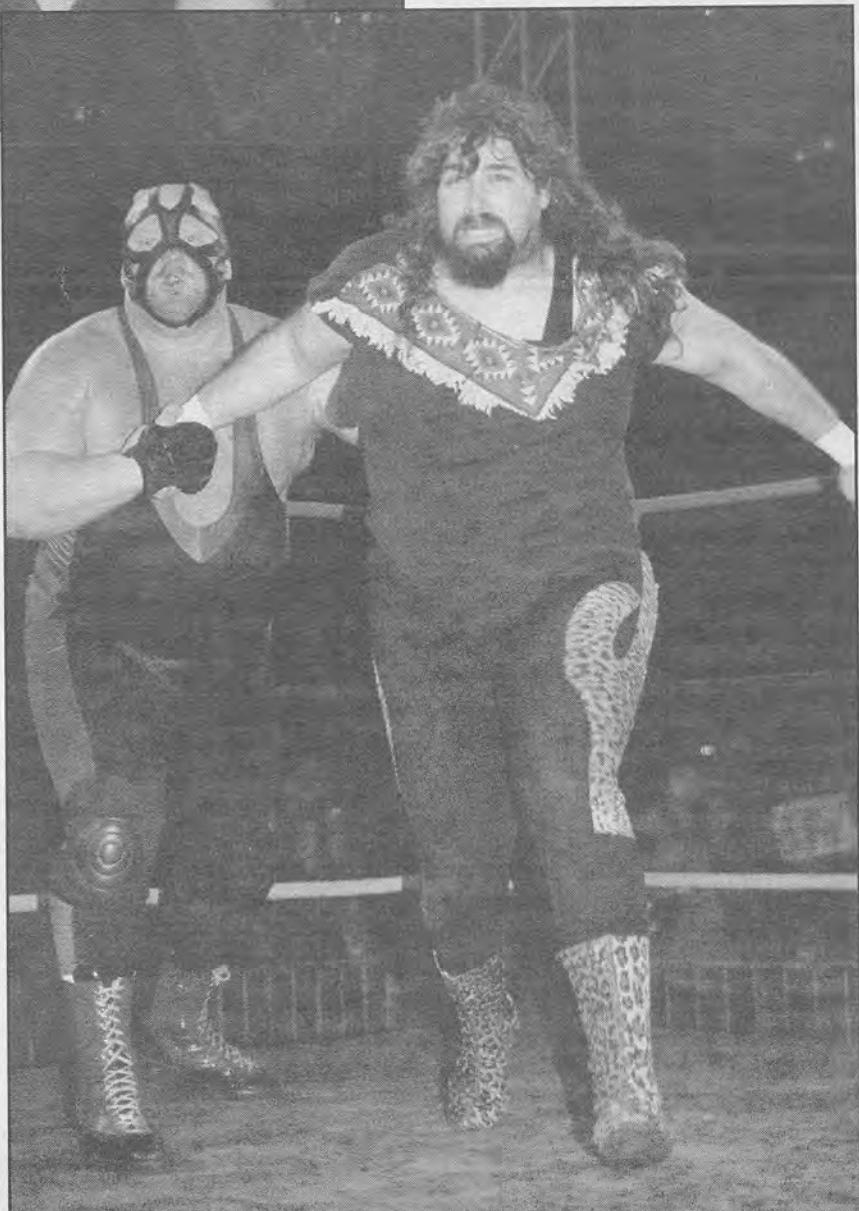
"Is that how many there's supposed to be?" he asked incredulously. "Heck, I haven't had 32 since ... Man, I don't think I've ever had 32. Maybe 25. Okay, 20. But that was when I was about six years old. Didn't get into too many fights back then, except for with my brothers and sisters."

There are many reasons Jack is feeling no pain. He felt the ultimate in pain over a year ago when Vader power-bombed him onto the concrete floor of Atlanta's Center Stage Theater. That shook

up his insides and made Cactus think, *If I could take that, I can take anything.*

It also doesn't hurt that Jack and Kevin Sullivan are the WCW World tag team champions. Most experts thought Cactus Jack would never win a major title—his style is too chaotic—and thought him destined for a career of feuding-for-the-sake-of-feuding. Instead, Cactus and Sullivan overcame incredible punishment to unseat The Nasty Boys.

Jack's philosophy is simple and not uncommon. You don't become a pro football lineman unless





Who made Jack the man he is today? Give Vader some credit. Whether it be sending his head to the floor (right) or tossing him over a railing (above), Vader's brutality dramatically boosted Jack's threshold of pain.

you're willing to take jarring hits. You don't become a rugby player if you mind getting hit while wearing no equipment. And you don't become a hockey goalie if you don't like getting struck by vulcanized rubber travelling at 120 miles-per-hour.

"You don't become a pro wrestler if you're not willing to get in there and get hurt," he said. "I know I'm doing my job when my bones are breaking. That means I'm getting in some licks of my own."

The power bomb didn't stop him. The loss of half an ear didn't

stop him. Tables, chairs, cement floors, and cattle prodders haven't stopped him. What will? What can?

"I think we're dealing with a very unique individual," Sullivan said. "I've seen wrestlers who can take a licking and keep on ticking, but nobody like Cactus Jack. It's scary sometimes. He'll look totally out of it, then he'll just keep on going. I'd rather have him on my side than go against him."

Cactus doesn't care. To him, only one side counts. And he can keep looking out for himself knowing nobody can touch him.

He is invincible. He made himself that way. And then he broke the mold. □



HIJACKED!

*How Paul E. Dangerously
Grounded The Sabu-Scorpio
Air Show!*



It's too bad Paul E. Dangerously called 911 to interfere on Sabu's behalf against 2 Cold Scorpio (right). The two aerialists were having a sensational match before it ended on a down note (above).

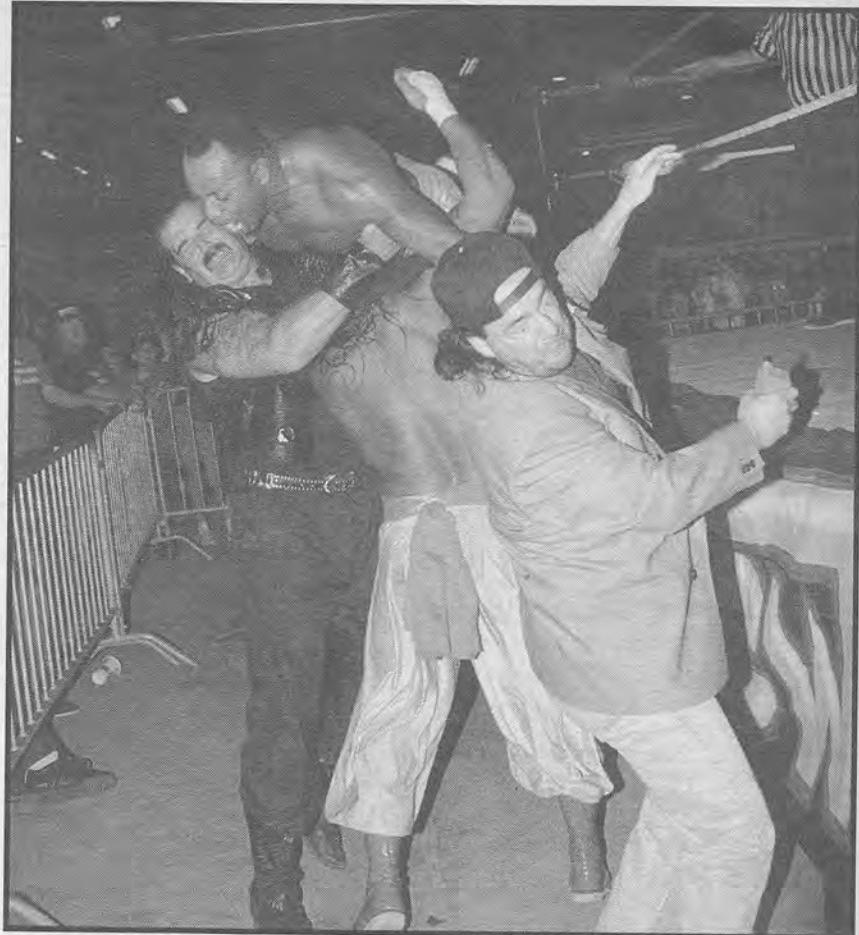
By Chris Bernucca

YOU DON'T NEED the greatest venue in the world with overblown media coverage to have a great sporting event. Wilt Chamberlain's 100-point game against the New York Knicks in 1962 was not at the old Madison Square Garden, but in, of all places, Hershey, Pennsylvania, witnessed by little more than 2,000 people. The double no-hitter pitched by Yale's Ron Darling and St. John's Frank Viola in the 1981 NCAA playoffs was not on ESPN but on a college radio station.

Sabu and Scorpio were taking wrestling to new heights when Paul E. Dangerously orchestrated a crash-landing. He ordered 911 to interfere and ruined a match that was destined for greatness

So it didn't matter that the anticipated high-flying ECW match between Scorpio and Sabu was held at the Farmers' Market in Montgomeryville, Pennsylvania. What did matter, though, was that Paul E. Dangerously was there, and for wrestling aesthetes, that meant trouble.

With the help of 911, Dangerously's newest thug, the man-



ager conspired to bring an abrupt and disappointing end to a Match of the Year candidate. Interference on behalf of Sabu brought on a disqualification and put a bitter taste in the mouth of every true wrestling fan.

"Ever been to a party at a friend's house when his parents are out of town?" said 14-year-old Mike Morano, who attended the card. "There's girls, there's music, everybody's having a good time. Then his parents show up at 11:30 because they had car trouble or something, and the party's over. Dangerously's a party-pooper."

ECW contemporaries had stronger words for the actions of the "Psycho Yuppie."

"Guys like Dangerously ruin the sport with that crap," said Crash the Terminator, who has felt the wrath of Dangerously's

To Scorpio's credit, he did not take the outside interference in stride. Though the victim of an illegal pin, Scorpio fought back, pouncing on Dangerously and his stable.



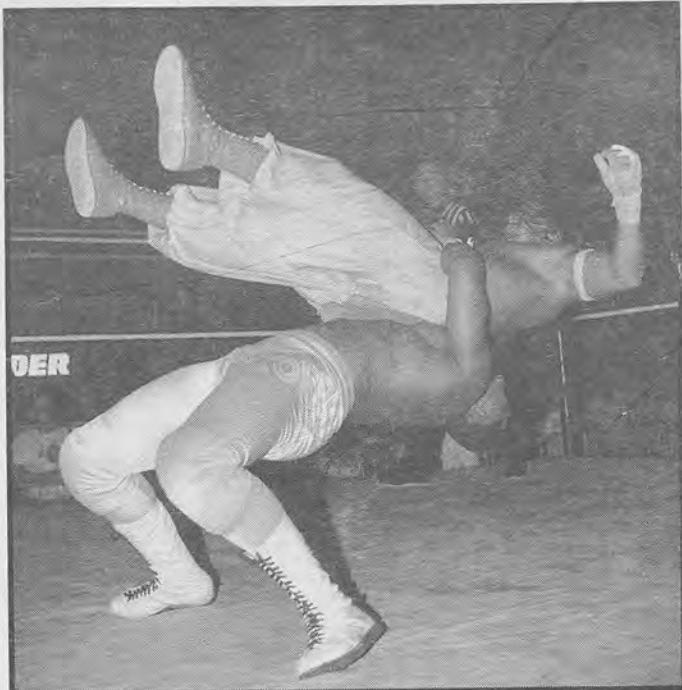
Photos by
Jason Ross Lavin

meddling. "If it's not your match, then stay the hell away from the ring. He should be fined or suspended, or both. Maybe that will straighten him out."

It's pretty obvious Dangerously won't be straightened out. With 911 and Sabu in his stable, he has again become an influential player in a wrestling federation. He does not wield the same sort of power he once did as head of The Dangerous Alliance in WCW, but he is still just as annoying and knows how to directly affect the outcome of a match.

This match didn't need any help from Dangerously. Scorpio, a newcomer to ECW, is one of the most remarkable aerial wrestlers today. He backs up his high-flying act with superb technical skills that compensate for his smallish size.

Sabu is, well, Sabu. With the outside exception of Cactus Jack, he is the most fearless wrestler on the planet, perhaps because he is the most feral. One fellow scribe wondered if Sabu had been



raised by wolves.

Another described him as a "pit bull on a steady diet of gunpowder."

Dangerously himself knew he had something, er, special on his hands when he offered to manage Sabu. He often brings Sabu to the ring strapped to a gurney, the way Dr. Hannibal Lecter was transported in *The Silence Of The Lambs*. He also hired 911

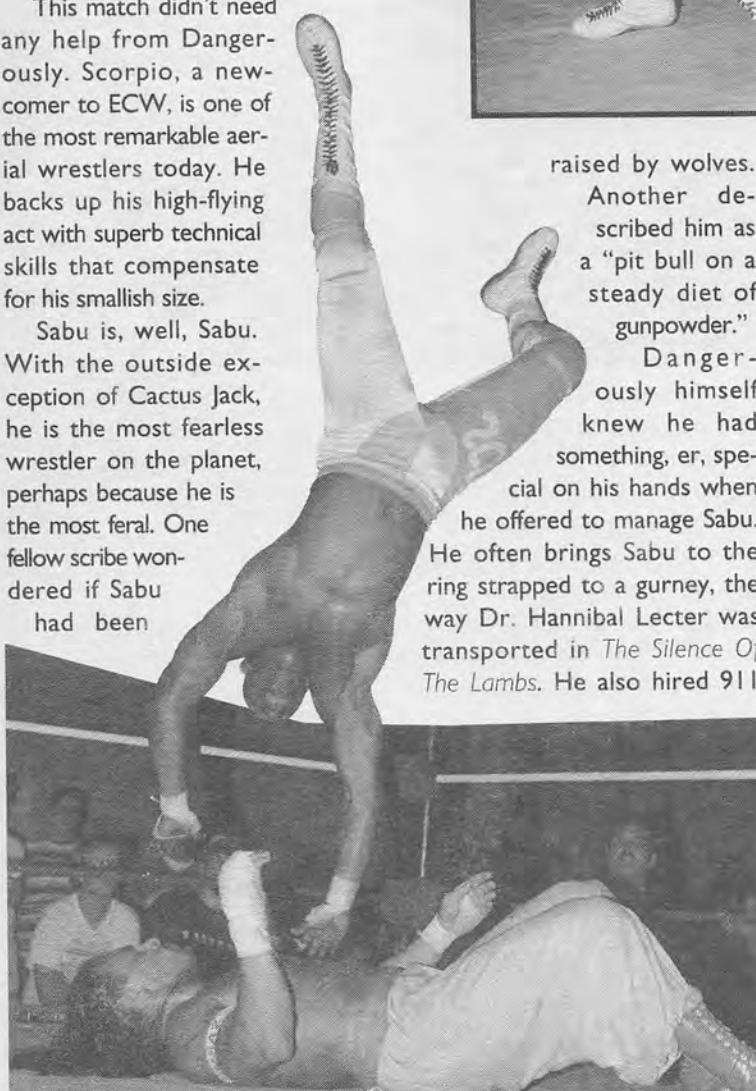
Scorpio shows off his all-around technical skills by suplexing Sabu. This bout brought out the best in both wrestlers, much to the delight of this ECW crowd.

initially to assist him in handling Sabu, with the promise of future matches.

Until Dangerously and 911 interfered, the match was everything fans hoped it would be and more. Scorpio needed some time just to figure out Sabu's "method" but quickly became acclimated and took control with his edge in ring skills. There was plenty of battling early on and Scorpio struck the first major blow when he sent Sabu flying through the ropes to the ground.

That's when the action really picked up. With Sabu prone on the ground, Scorpio mounted the ropes in the corner. He lined up his target, steadied himself, then launched into a backflip onto Sabu. A fan at ringside shouted "Lucha!", referring to the daredevil tactics of wrestling in Mexico, while others just oohed and aahed in amazement.

But Scorpio wasn't done. With the action now back in the



Scorpio has always been perceived as a far more cerebral wrestler than the maniacal Sabu. But he took some risks this time around, using his aerial ability to take command early in the match.



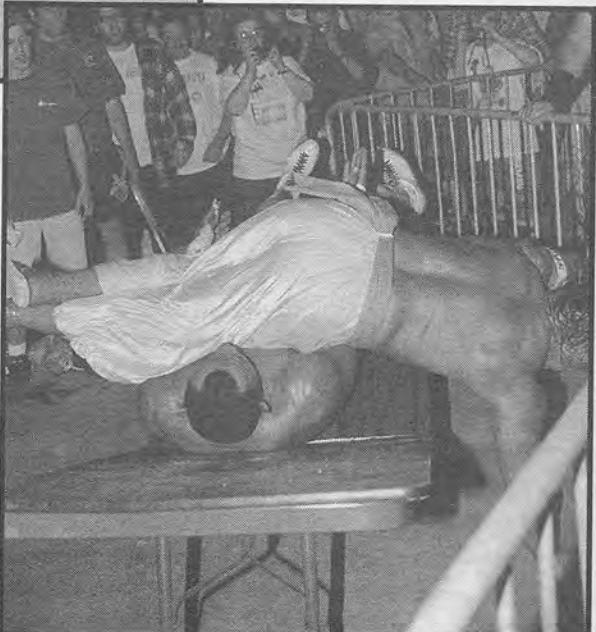
Scorpio was never treated this way in WCW! Sabu used a chair to stun his foe. Seconds later, Sabu leapt onto Scorpio from the chair after a running start from the other end of the ring.

ring, Scorpio leaped into a "Frankensteiner" and nailed it, yanking Sabu headfirst down to the canvas. It was a remarkable display rarely seen anywhere, majors or indies.

Sabu is called a lot of things, but never has he been called a quitter. He called on his seemingly endless reserve of energy to scramble back into the match. Then he relied on his penchant for mayhem to strike a deciding blow of his own. He brought a folding chair to the ring, and with Scorpio temporarily stunned, he used a running start to jump onto the chair and into Scorpio, knocking him from the ring.

Then the parents came home.

911, who was at ring-side throughout, further weakened Scorpio with a powerful slam onto a table at ring-side. Sabu's flying leap from the ring apron to Scorpio on the table—a terrific and very dangerous move in its own right—was the final act of a great match gone bad.



ECW fans are accustomed to watching Sabu break tables, but this was the first time Scorpio had been the victim! These two should have an outstanding series of matches—if Dangerously and 911 stay out of the way.

Afterward his man scored the illegal pin, Dangerously droned on about his choice of action, using million-dollar words like "protectionism" and "stealth" to defend the two-bit huckster he has become. The fans weren't buying any of it.

"He's a loudmouthed jerk," said Rebecca Tresvant, who had driven 40 miles to see the card. "I hate him. I wish he would go back to Scottsdale, or wherever he lives."

"That's Scarsdale," corrected Dangerously when the quote was relayed to him. "And maybe the fans should go back to the trailer parks where they live. This is wrestling, not gymnastics. Interference is part of the game, and 911 did what any true teammate would do for another teammate. I wouldn't have it any other way."

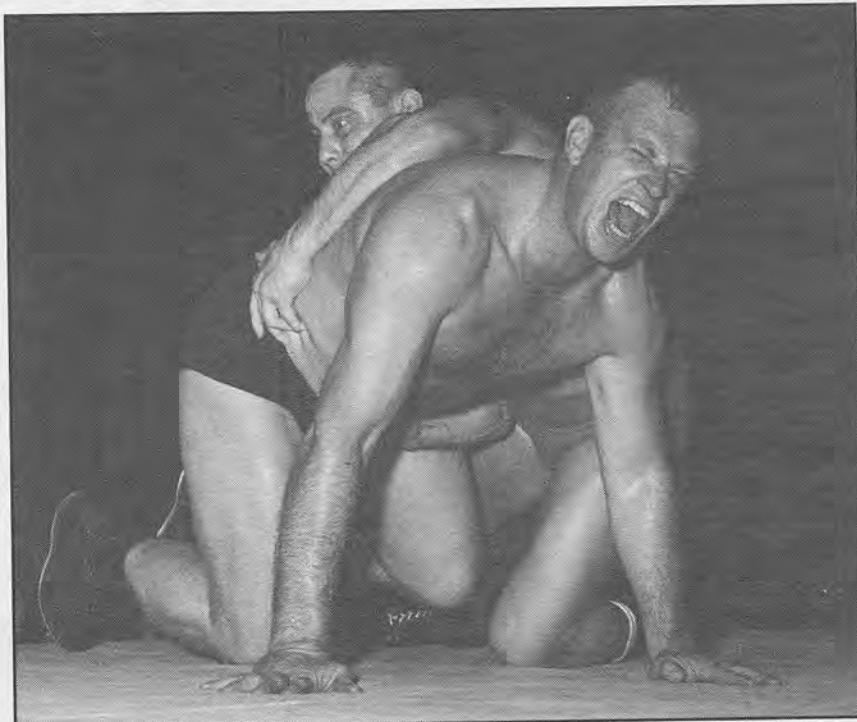
On that count, the manager is in a minority smaller than Montgomeryville. □

SCRAPBOOK

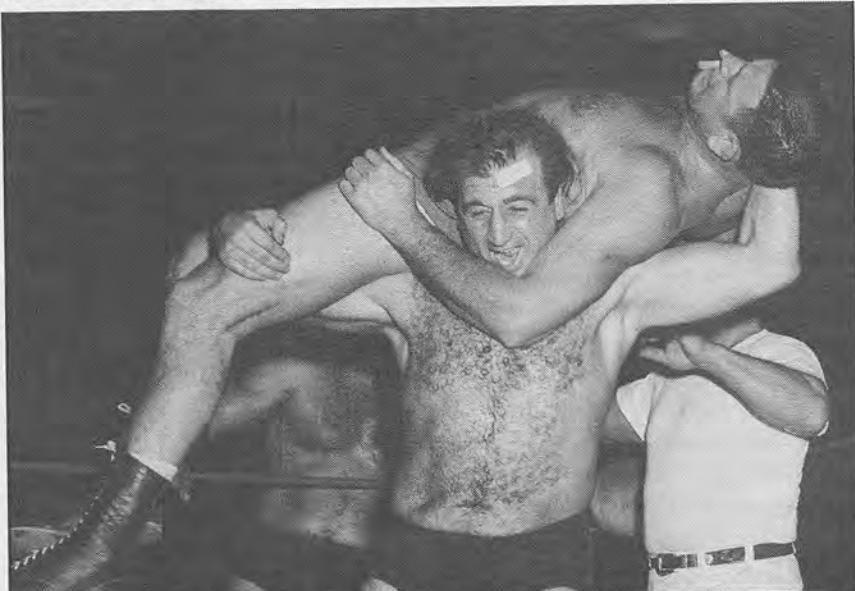
Explore with us the rich history of this great sport as we recall the important news stories at five-year intervals dating back a quarter of a century.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
1969

A QUIRK OF scheduling forced NWA World champion Dory Funk Jr. to defend his title against ex-champ Gene Kiniski in four different cities in the same week. Funk managed to hold on to his title in what he called "the toughest week of my career" ... Jack Dillinger, one member of the tag team The Chain Gang, used a chain to knock one of Dick the Bruiser's front teeth loose during a tag team match ... Paul DeMarco defeated The Professional to win the Georgia State championship ... Pepper Gomez and Fritz Von Erich engaged in a "Battle Of The Claws" in Texas. Ironically, the claw was not the deciding factor in the contest. Gomez was knocked unconscious when he missed a flying tackle and flew head-first into the ringpost, after which Von Erich covered him for the victory ... The wrestling community mourned the death of "Iron" Mike DiBiase, who died after a match in Texas ... The loser of a Johnny Weaver-Louie Tillet match in Austin, Texas, was to be tarred and feathered. Weaver won the match, but was attacked from behind afterward by Tillet and received the treatment. Tillet was also tarred and feathered, though, when Nick Kozak, referee Marvin Jones, and promoter Leo Gari-



Fritz Von Erich and Pepper Gomez met in 1969 in what was billed as a "Battle Of The Claws." But Von Erich won without the claw, pinning Gomez after he flew head-first into a ringpost and was knocked unconscious.



"Iron" Mike DiBiase (lifting Sonny Myers), one of Texas' top wrestlers and father of current WWF star Ted DiBiase, died suddenly in 1969 following a match.

baldi ganged up on the Frenchman ... Ernie Ladd, on leave from the Kansas City Chiefs, pinned Baron Scicluna at Madison Square Garden. In the main event of that card, Bruno Sammartino defended his WWF title against Waldo Von Erich.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Dory Funk Jr.; 2—Gene Kiniski; 3—Fritz Von Erich; 4—Mil Mascaras; 5—Eddie Graham; 6—Cowboy Bob Ellis; 7—The Sheik; 8—Johnny Valentine; 9—Ernie Ladd; 10—Bob Geigel.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Harley Race; 3—Crusher; 4—Bruiser; 5—Bill Watts; 6—Blackjack Lanza; 7—Mighty Igor; 8—Mad Dog Vachon; 9—Reg Parks; 10—Doug Gilbert.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Killer Kowalski; 3—Gorilla Monsoon; 4—Prof. Toru Tanaka; 5—Edouard Carpentier; 6—Miguel Perez; 7—George Steele; 8—Bull Ramos; 9—Spiros Arion; 10—Victor Rivera.

TAG TEAMS: 1—Bruiser & Crusher; 2—Pepper Gomez & Pedro Morales; 3—Prof. Toru Tanaka & Mitsu Arakawa; 4—George Becker & Johnny Weaver; 5—Kenji Shibuya & Haru Sasaki; 6—Ole & Gene Anderson; 7—The Medics; 8—The Assassins; 9—Stan & Paul Vachon; 10—George & Sandy Scott.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1974

LOS ANGELES FANS watched in amazement as Andre the Giant battled Ernie "The Big Cat" Ladd at the Olympic Auditorium. The two dwarfed referee Johnny "Red Shoes" Dugan, and actually moved the ring across the arena



Two behemoths did battle in Los Angeles in 1974, as Andre the Giant took on Ernie Ladd. The match ended in a double-disqualification, but not before both men's size and strength actually caused the ring to move.

floor when whipping each other into the turnbuckles. The bout ended in a double-disqualification ... Billy Robinson won the AWA World title from Verne Gagne—for all of 10 minutes! The two had fallen out of the ring during their furi-



Billy Robinson celebrates winning the AWA World title, but his title reign never actually took place. His victory over Verne Gagne was reversed.

ous scientific battle. As they got back in, Gagne caught a leg in the ring ropes and fell. Robinson pinned Gagne, whose foot was still caught. The decision was, however, quickly reversed ... Jack and Jerry Brisco protested that the Funks received a "hometown decision" in a tag team match in Amarillo, Texas ... WWF champion Bruno Sammartino was blinded when Mr. Fuji threw salt in his eyes during a title defense in Pittsburgh ... Maniac John Tolos was locked in a cage suspended above the ring for a match between Victor Rivera and the masked Mr. California, whom Tolos advised ... Superstar Graham and The Crusher battled in a Green Bay, Wisconsin, main event. Baron Von Raschke rushed the ring to assist Graham, and, with brass knuckles, the two destroyed Crusher ... The feud between Moondog Mayne and Pat Patterson continued in Sacramento, California. The referee halted this no-disqualification

match when he ruled that the two had lost too much blood to continue.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Jack Brisco; 2—Dory Funk Jr.; 3—Pampero Firpo; 4—The Sheik; 5—Moondog Mayne; 6—Terry Funk; 7—Superstar Graham; 8—Buddy Colt; 9—Harley Race; 10—Tim Woods.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Billy Robinson; 3—Ray Stevens; 4—Nick Bockwinkel; 5—Wahoo McDaniel; 6—Ivan Putski; 7—The Crusher; 8—Larry Hennig; 9—Greg Gagne; 10—Chris Taylor.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Pedro Morales; 3—Chief Jay Strongbow; 4—Andre the Giant; 5—Bobby Duncum; 6—Killer Kowalski; 7—Strong Kobayashi; 8—Gorilla Monsoon; 9—Haystacks Calhoun; 10—Tony Garea.

TAG TEAMS: 1—The Valiant Brothers; 2—Billy Robinson & The Crusher; 3—Manuel Soto & Porkchop Cash; 4—The Von Brauners; 5—Ole & Gene Anderson; 6—Ray Stevens & Nick Bockwinkel; 7—Tony Garea & Dean Ho; 8—Terry Funk & Dory Funk Jr.; 9—Jack & Jerry Brisco; 10—Jerry Brown & Buddy Roberts.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1979

A NUMBER OF titles changed in the early fall of 1979 ... Harley Race lost the NWA World title on Halloween night in Japan to Shohei "Giant" Baba. Race would regain the title in early November ... Pat Patterson beat some of the top stars on the international circuit to win the WWF Intercontinental championship in a tournament in Rio de Janeiro,



It's Halloween night 1979, and Shohei "Giant" Baba treats himself to his second NWA World title by beating Harley Race. The trick? His reign lasted all of one week, as Race regained the belt while still in Japan.

Brazil ... Ivan Putski and Tito Santana defeated Jerry and Johnny Valiant on October 22 to win the WWF tag team belts ...



Ivan Putski and Tito Santana won the WWF World tag team belts on October 22, 1979, defeating Johnny and Jerry Valiant in New York.

Dewey Robertson defeated Greg Valentine in the final round of a tournament to win the vacant Canadian heavyweight title ... Former WWF tag team champions Mr. Fuji and Prof. Toru Tanaka reformed their alliance in the Mid-Southern region ... Jim Brunzell defeated Ken Patera in an Asheville, North Carolina, match and collected a \$1,000 prize from Patera for doing so ... Ray Candy, substituting for Tony Atlas in a Georgia State title challenge of Killer Karl Kox, won the match but not the title. The officials ruled that although Atlas had signed for a title bout, Candy's bout was a non-title affair.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Dusty Rhodes; 2—Harley Race; 3—Ric Flair; 4—Ken Patera; 5—Wahoo McDaniel; 6—Mr. Wrestling II; 7—Terry Funk; 8—Rick Steamboat; 9—Mark Lewin; 10—Steve Keirn.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Nick Bockwinkel; 2—Mad Dog Vachon; 3—

Ray Stevens; 4—Verne Gagne; 5—Billy Robinson; 6—Greg Gagne; 7—The Crusher; 8—Super Destroyer II; 9—Bobby Duncum; 10—Steve O.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Bob Backlund; 2—Swede Hanson; 3—Pat Patterson; 4—Greg Valentine; 5—Ivan Putski; 6—Nikolai Volkoff; 7—Chief Jay Strongbow; 8—Bobby Duncum; 9—Ted DiBiase; 10—The Iron Sheik.

TAG TEAMS: 1—Tito Santana & Ivan Putski; 2—Verne Gagne & Mad Dog Vachon; 3—Ric Flair & Blackjack Mulligan; 4—Jim Garvin & Steve Keirn; 5—Ivan Koloff & Ole Anderson; 6—Bruiser Brody & Kerry Von Erich; 7—Ken Patera & John Studd; 8—Tommy Rich & Stan Hansen; 9—Don Muraco & Jos LeDuc; 10—Ron & Robert Fuller.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1984

REG VALENTINE defeated Tito Santana to win the Intercontinental title in London, Ontario, but he needed interference from his manager, Capt. Lou Albano. Before the match began, Albano distracted Santana, allowing Valentine to sneak up on the champion and knee him in the legs. Santana later required knee surgery ... Dusty Rhodes and Manny Fernandez captured the NWA World tag team title from Ivan Koloff and Don Kernodle in a steel cage match in Greensboro, North Carolina ... Kerry Von Erich avenged his brother Mike by winning the World Class American title from Gino Hernandez in Fort Worth, Texas, in October. A month earlier, Gino had regained the belt from Mike when Gino's valet, Nickla (Baby Doll) Roberts,



Greg Valentine captured the WWF Intercontinental title from Tito Santana in 1984, thanks to interference from his manager, Capt. Lou Albano.

interfered ... Not long after his arrival in the WWF, Bobby Heenan got Big John Studd several title shots against WWF champion Hulk Hogan ... Wahoo McDaniel beat Manny Fernandez in the final

of a one-night tournament to win the U.S. title. Wahoo had accused promoter Jim Crockett, Rick Steamboat, and Ric Flair of plotting to keep the belt out of his hands ... The Road Warriors continued to overpower every team they met in defenses of their AWA World tag team title ... In the early days of their feud, The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat The Midnight Express for the Mid-South tag title ... Ronnie Garvin defeated Ted DiBiase in Baltimore to win the National belt. At one point, Garvin threw a box of popcorn in DiBiase's face! ... Ernie Ladd took the North American title from Magnum T.A. in Shreveport, Louisiana.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Ric Flair; 2—Dusty Rhodes; 3—Wahoo McDaniel; 4—Kerry Von Erich; 5—Ronnie Garvin; 6—Harley Race; 7—Gino Hernandez; 8—Jesse Barr; 9—Cowboy Ron Bass; 10—Tully Blanchard.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Rick Martel; 2—Nick Bockwinkel; 3—Mr. Saito; 4—Tony Atlas; 5—Billy Robinson; 6—Brad Rheingans; 7—Jim Brunzell; 8—Crusher



Road Warrior Animal controls Baron Von Raschke during a 1984 tag team match. The Road Warriors had just begun their 13-month reign as AWA World tag team champions and were putting away opponents with ease.

Blackwell; 9—Larry Zbyszko; 10—Steve O.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Hulk Hogan; 2—Greg Valentine; 3—John Studd; 4—Roddy Piper; 5—Tito Santana; 6—Sgt. Slaughter; 7—Junkyard Dog; 8—Kamala; 9—Ken Patera; 10—Jesse Ventura.

TAG TEAMS: 1—The Road Warriors; 2—Dusty Rhodes & Manny Fernandez; 3—Steve Keirn & Stan Lane; 4—Dick Murdoch & Adrian Adonis; 5—The Rock 'n' Roll Express; 6—Ron Bass & Black Bart; 7—Krusher Khrushchev & Jim Neidhart; 8—Tommy Rogers & Bobby Fulton; 9—Rip Rogers & Ted Oates; 10—Ivan & Nikita Koloff.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1989

DEMOLITION WON THE WWF World tag team title from Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard in Wheeling, West Virginia, on October 2. Anderson and Blanchard were furious that the referee counted Blanchard's shoulders down even though Anderson was the legal man in the ring... Eddie



Randy Savage was no match for Hulk Hogan in 1989. The WWF World champion dominated the "Macho Man" in a series of bouts, and even defeated him twice in a span of 16 hours.

Gilbert forbade his wife, Missy Hyatt, from appearing at ringside with Rick and Scott Steiner, whom she managed ... Scotty the Body won the Pacific Northwest title from Rex King on October 14 ... Stud Stable members (and brothers) Robert and Ron Fuller began feuding ... Terry Funk was suspended by the NWA for sneak-attacking World champion Ric Flair after a tag team bout at Clash of the Champions VIII. Brian Pillman resuscitated Flair after Funk put a plastic bag over his head. Flair later paid Funk's \$100,000 fine so he could be reinstated in the NWA ... WWF World champion Hulk Hogan dominated a series of bouts against Randy Savage. He even beat him twice in 16 hours—despite "Sensational" Sherri Martel's interference ... Veteran wrestler Eduardo Perez died on September 7 ... Greg Gagne announced his intentions to retire after a 17-year pro career ... Antonio Inoki, who had been recently elected to Japan's House of Councilors, was attacked by a knife-wielding man while making a speech ... Tito Santana defeated his former partner Rick Martel to win the WWF's "King Of The Ring" tournament ... Gen. Skandor Akbar recruited Billy Travis to join Devastation Inc. Travis helped Akbar attack Eric Embry; the two rulebreakers temporarily blinded the fan favorite by throwing a cup of ammonia in his eyes ... The Midnight Express' Stan Lane became upset that manager Jim Cornette was also advising Shane Douglas and Johnny Ace.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Ric Flair; 2—Lex Luger; 3—The Great Muta; 4—Terry Funk; 5—Sting; 6—Brian Pillman; 7—Steve Williams; 8—Tom Zenk; 9—Tommy



Demolition won its second WWF World tag team title in 1989, as Ax and Smash beat Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard amid major controversy.

Rich; 10—Mike Rotundo.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Larry Zbyszko; 2—Greg Gagne; 3—Sgt. Slaughter; 4—Jonnie Stewart; 5—Paul Diamond; 6—Baron Von Raschke; 7—The Russian Brute; 8—Kokina Maximus; 9—Akio Sato; 10—Tommy Jammer.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Hulk Hogan; 2—The Ultimate Warrior; 3—Curt Hennig; 4—Randy Savage; 5—Roddy Piper; 6—Rick Rude; 7—Brutus Beefcake; 8—Dusty Rhodes; 9—Dino Bravo; 10—Jimmy Snuka.

TAG TEAMS: 1—Demolition; 2—Michael Hayes & Jim Garvin; 3—The Road Warriors; 4—The Skyscrapers; 5—The Midnight Express; 6—Mike Enos & Wayne Bloom; 7—Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson; 8—The Rock 'n' Roll Express; 9—Jimmy Golden & Brian Lee; 10—The Dynamic Dudes. □

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JERRY LAWLER

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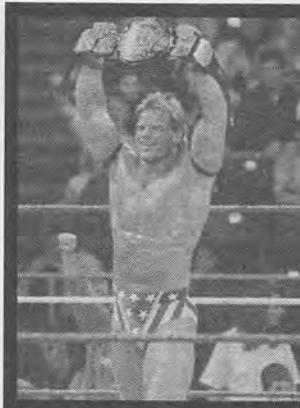
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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 5)



If Johnny B. Badd is to add a title to his resume, reader Carl Parks maintains he needs to become more assertive.

with Finkel at WrestleMania X and now they've been "wrestling" in tuxedo matches around the country. I was lucky enough to witness one. I'd never seen Howard so mad, but I'm glad he won and embarrassed Wippleman. Maybe now Harvey will finally pack his bags. Thanks, "Fink."

ASHLEY SMITH
Lowell, MA

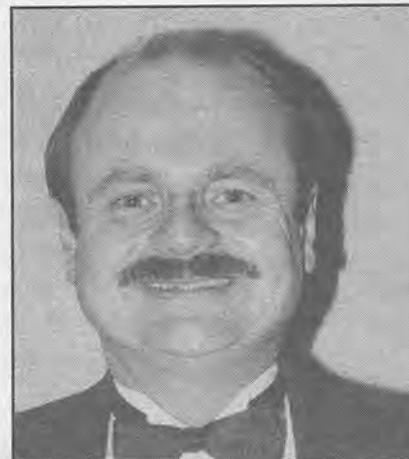
IS BADD TOO GOOD?

Johnny B. Badd has been in WCW way too long to have not won a title. Just in the last half-year, he has almost beaten Ric Flair for the World title, Lord Steven Regal for the TV title, and Steve Austin for the U.S. title. With some many close losses, he should try to figure out what is wrong.

I'll tell him what it is: Johnny B. Badd is too nice a man in the ring. That kind of demeanor is great for everyday life, but if he wants to win titles, he has to wrestle smarter and tougher. He has the physi-

cal ability to be a champion, but he has to be willing to bend the rules when the situation calls for it. He should also be more ready when opposing managers interfere. That has cost him several times. I'm not saying Johnny should be a rulebreaker, just that he should adjust his style a little.

CARL PARKS
Charlotte, NC □



Howard Finkel has a fan in reader Ashley Smith, who admires how he embarrassed Harvey Wippleman in a series of tuxedo matches.

NO HOLDS BARRED

(Continued from page 8)

don't know. It's hard to say if the public really cares about Hogan anymore. They certainly don't care about him as a movie star. His films are awful and do pitifully at the box office. And they might not care about

at least given away T-shirts). The crowd would have been loud because Vince McMahon would have stood up and made sure they were loud.

This crowd seemed bored.



Bobby Heenan and Gene Okerlund are but two former WWF personalities now in WCW. Ted Turner and company are hoping Hogan's signing can help his promotion finally overtake the WWF. Will it work?

him as a person anymore, either.

Is Hogan still bigger than life? Tough question. Maybe. He certainly gets loud ovations when he appears on TV talk shows. What concerns me, however, is the greeting Hogan received when he arrived in WCW.

It was, indeed, a historic day in wrestling history. At about 7:45 p.m. on June 11, 1994, Hulk Hogan was paraded down Main Street at Disney-MGM Studios in Orlando. It was a mock ticker-tape parade—nothing Disney does is real—and a decent-sized crowd was gathered.

Decent. Nothing sensational. Nothing like what the WWF would have put together for a similar occasion. If the WWF ran this event, you could be sure there would've been thousands, instead of hundreds, of fans watching. They would have paid these people if they had to (or

Disinterested. Hogan's arrival didn't create any real excitement. Even Hogan seemed bored. Perhaps he was put off by the reception. Hogan isn't used to anything but "Hulkamania" running wild. Believe me, it wasn't running anywhere on June 11.

Perhaps I shouldn't read too much into this. Hogan means WWF. Flair means WCW. Hogan is dead wrong if he thinks WCW fans are going to root for him. No way. They know a Hogan victory over Flair could be perceived as proof that the WWF is superior to WCW.

Maybe fans aren't loyal to wrestlers (who aren't loyal to the fans), but they're loyal to the federations. If you want to get wrestling fans yelling and arguing, don't ask them if Hogan's better than Flair. Ask them if the WWF is better than WCW.

So that could be the reason Hogan didn't get a reception fit for a king. The fans want him to lose this one. For the first time since the early-1980s, Hogan won't be a fan favorite (although that doesn't mean he's going to be a rulebreaker).

"Hulkamania" never could have been created in WCW. It has always been a federation for traditional wrestling and no-nonsense fans. WCW is to wrestling what Wimbledon is to tennis. The WWF is to wrestling what the Skins Game is to golf.

The pieces are in place for a very interesting period in wrestling history. Even if the fans aren't excited by Hogan's arrival, they'll certainly pay attention to Flair vs. Hogan. And any people who happen to ask, "Where's Hogan these days?" will find out he's in WCW.

Maybe they'll turn on TBS at 6:05 on a Saturday night to see what's happening. Maybe they'll keep watching.

Maybe this time, WCW will go over the top. It won't be easy, but it didn't come easily for the Rangers, either. Good things come to those who wait. □

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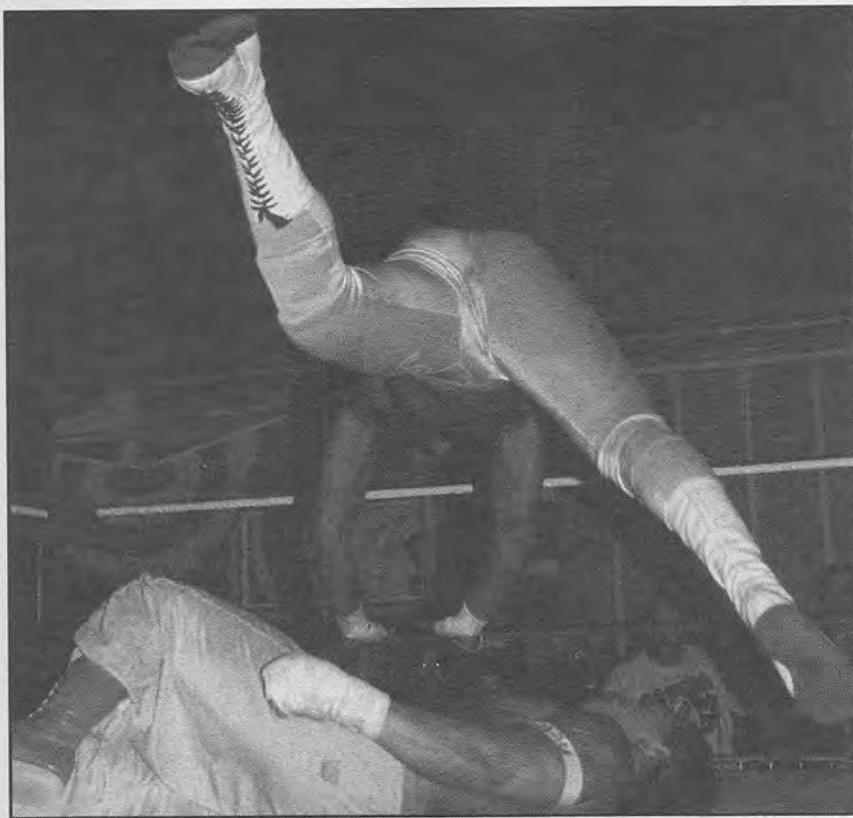
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 7)



Former WCW star **2 Cold Scorpio**, now on the independent circuit, challenged fellow aerial wrestler **Sabu** on an ECW card in Pennsylvania. **Sabu** won their first meeting, though he needed interference from **911** to do it.

taker? We shall see.

Randy Savage recently appeared on several cards in Smoky Mountain Wrestling, where long-time foe **Jake Roberts** is the heavyweight champion. The two never met in singles, although they were rivals in a tag team match. Speaking of Roberts, "The Snake" is now bald after dropping a hair-vs-hair match to Mexican star **Konnan** in Tijuana. The SMW fan favorites are trying to refrain from laughing at his predicament. Jake, I know what you're going through. Alas, my hair won't grow back ...

Former WCW high-flyer **2 Cold Scorpio**, now an independent, fought **Sabu** on an Eastern Championship Wrestling card in Montgomeryville, Pennsylvania. Fans looked forward to this aerial duel,

but manager **Paul E. Dangerously** spoiled the party when he had **Sabu**'s stablemate, the imposing **911**, interfere to help **Sabu** defeat **Scorpio**. One can only dream of what **Sabu** and **Scorpio** could achieve on their own.

J.C. Ice is back in the USWA, much to the delight of **Wolfie D**. They teamed up to win the tag team belts, defeating **The Eliminators**. Both **Ice** and **Wolfie** lost loser-leaves-the-USWA matches several months ago, but I guess the Memphis statute of limitations is awfully short! **Wolfie**'s new partner was supposed to have been **Spike Huber**, but **Ice** took his place after an injury. Incidentally, rulebreaker "Dream Machine" **Troy Graham** is now the Southern champion.

That's what's happening. See you at the matches! □



The WWF's latest invasion of Smoky Mountain came when **Randy Savage** appeared on several of the independent's cards. The "Macho Man" participated in a tag team match with former foe **Jake Roberts**, now SMW heavyweight champion.

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2523	Black Crowes	3871	Duran Duran	5332	Led Zeppelin	7641	Poison	2667	Tori Amos
2524	Black Sabbath	9621	Dwight Yoakam	5366	Lemonheads	7671	Porno For Pyros	8742	Travis Tritt
2544	Blind Melon	5641	Elton John	5721	Lenny Kravitz	7745	Primus	9321	Trisha Yearwood
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CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 14)

and former titleholders The Quebecers on this night. Both teams got their managers to wrestle with them: Afa joined The Headshrinkers, while The Quebecers added Johnny Polo to their team.

Afa did not look rusty at all. Unfortunately, the same could not be said for Polo, who was reluctant to step into the ring. The crowd goaded him into wrestling after a tired Jacques ran into his corner and slapped his hand.

He threw one punch at Fatu and tagged back out. Both Quebecers dished out a lot of punishment on Fatu and Samu, but they fought back. The Headshrinkers also got a few shots in on Polo during the match.

Finally, while Samu and Pierre were brawling outside the ring and Polo was lying hurt outside, Fatu kayoed Jacques. Afa then gave him a signal. Fatu climbed to the top rope, dove onto Jacques, and pinned him.

In other bouts: Kwang the Ninja pinned Sparky Plugg ... Jeff Jarrett defeated Doink the Clown ... Bam Bam Bigelow beat Mabel ... World Women's champion Alundra Blayze beat Luna Vachon ... Intercontinental champion Diesel and Razor Ramon fought to a double-countout ... World champion Bret Hart beat Owen Hart.

Morristown, TN (Correspondent—Joe Minz): Tracey Smothers was scheduled to face his arch-rival, Bruiser Bedlam, in a coal miner's glove match, but upon stepping into the ring, he was informed that Bedlam's manager, Jim Cornette, would be using Killer Kyle as a substitute.

After talking with referee Mark Curtis, Smothers said he wanted to wrestle both Kyle and Cornette. The manager reluctantly agreed.

He shouldn't have. Practically every move he tried was a failure.

He and Kyle had Smothers down, but when Cornette held him so Kyle could punch him, Smothers ducked and Kyle floored his partner. The same thing happened when Kyle tried to hold Tracey so Cornette could hit him.

With both rulebreakers down, Smothers retrieved the glove from the top of the pole and blasted Kyle. As he went for the pinfall, Cornette in desperation tried to land an elbowdrop. Smothers moved again and Cornette hit Kyle instead. Smothers pinned both of his opponents at the same time.

In other bouts: The Thrill-seekers beat Steven Dunn & Brian Logan ... Tag team champions Brian Lee & Chris Candido wrestled to a no-contest with The Rock 'n' Roll Express in a piledriver match ... Tony Anthony beat Kendo the Samurai.

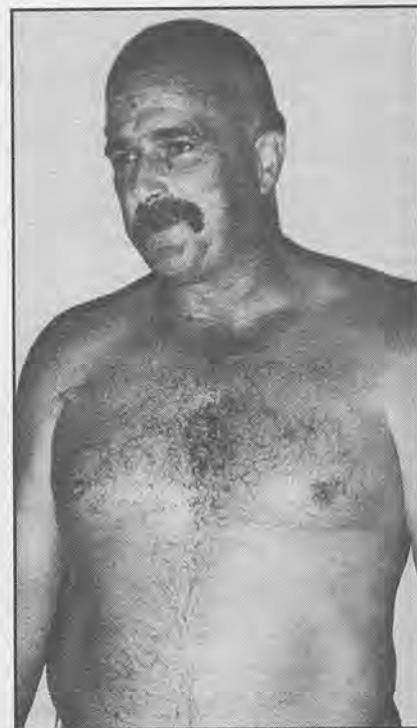
Tijuana, Mexico (Correspondent—Fernando Higuera): Having won the Smoky Mountain title from Tony Anthony four weeks earlier, Jake Roberts was confident heading into his best-of-three-falls match with AAA champion Konnan. In fact, he was so confident that he agreed to a hair-vs.-hair bout with his Mexican rival. Roberts had The Warlord as his second, while Konnan had Mascarita Sagrada, a midget, in his corner.

Konnan pinned "The Snake" in the first fall after using a flying clothesline.

He had his problems in the second fall, however, as Roberts mercilessly pounded him with his fists after handcuffing him to the ropes. From there, Warlord and Roberts got Mascarita in the ring. Warlord pressed him over his head and threw him to the arena floor. Fortunately, Mascarita Sagrada was there to catch him.

Warlord again went after Mas-

carita, slamming him on a ramp outside the ring. Then he smashed Konnan with a chair. Finally, a bloodied Konnan escaped the handcuffs and attacked his foes. It was Warlord who tried to finish him off. Jake held him while Warlord charged at him, but Konnan ducked at the last instant and Warlord floored Jake by mistake. After Konnan got the three-count, Roberts was forced to sit in the ring while a barber shaved his head.



A despondent Jake Roberts makes his way back to the locker room after having his head shaved following his loss to AAA champion Konnan in Mexico.

In other bouts: Super Amigo, El Puma, & Despredator beat My Flowers, Rudy Reyna, & Pimpinela Escarlata ... Espanto Jr., Magnate, & Rambo beat Solar, Winners, & Super Calo ... Volador, Tinieblas Jr., & Lizmark Jr. beat Love Machine, Miguel Perez Jr., & Misterioso ... The Blue Panther beat Mexican middleweight champion Octagon by forfeit to win the title. □

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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 16)



Brian Pillman says he hasn't settled his differences with former tag team partner Steve Austin. At the same time, he's considering taking on another partner, and has brought it up with several WCW stars.

are stupid enough to let Parker talk them into joining his stable. That windbag will never keep me down for long. I took care of Bunkhouse Buck at Slamboree and I'd be happy to do it again if that's what he wants. As for my specific plans, well, if Parker and his fools want to play dirty, that's okay with me. I can brawl or just plain fight as well as anyone. And I've got a few people on my side who are willing to lend me a hand."

Q: "I have a question for Roddy Piper: If you hate Jerry Lawler so much, why don't you come back to wrestling full-time so you can beat him more than once?"—Ellie Jarvis, Sault Ste. Marie, MI

A: "I don't hate Jerry Liar ... uh, Lawler," replied Piper. "I've got better things to do with my time. I feel sorry for Jerry Lawler, that's more like it. Anybody who has to walk around with a crown on his head and call himself 'The King' has a big problem. I don't want his crown and I don't want to be a king. It's not

my style. Wrestling's been very good to me over the years, but I'm going in a different direction in my life right now. I signed the contract to wrestle Lawler because I wanted to help the sick kids in Toronto. I have no plans to wrestle full-time again right now."

Q: "I'd like to ask Brian Pillman if he plans to find another regular tag team partner and go after the WCW World tag team title again?"—Roger D'Amore, Jackson, MS

A: "I've given that a lot of thought lately," replied Pillman. "Some of my greatest success came as a tag team wrestler. It's too bad Steve Austin had to throw all that away. I still say he'll regret that he ever signed with Col. Parker. At this point in my career, I don't want to limit myself to tag team or singles wrestling. I've talked to a lot of the guys in WCW about teaming on a regular basis, but nothing has been settled on so far. If I don't find a regular partner, there's a few singles titles I know I could win. Also,

don't think Austin and I have settled our differences! That feud is just beginning."

Q: "My question is for Bobby Heenan: Under the right conditions, would you ever manage again?"—Darrell Stewart, Telford, Nova Scotia



Bobby Heenan (shown in 1982 as manager of current WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel) says he's accomplished more than any other manager in history. But he adds his broadcasting skills are more in need today.

A: "I accomplished more as a manager than anyone else in history," said Heenan. "That fact is indisputable. Therefore, if you use logic, which is something I doubt any of the humanoids out there are capable of doing, you understand that I don't need to accomplish anything else as a manager. Of course, I am also the most brilliant broadcast journalist in the world. That is the field in which I am most needed. If I wasn't at the announcers' table, you'd have to listen to the Okerlunds and Schiavones all the time. Why accept their mediocrity when you can have my brilliance? No one could afford my fees as a manager, anyway." □

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July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.

September 1986/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brady.

December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.

January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvin, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

February 1987/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.

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April 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Rich-Lawler, R&R Express.

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July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.

August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.

November 1987/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.

December 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.

January 1988/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.

March 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.

May 1988/Stories include: Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.

June 1988/Stories include: Sting-Flair, DiBiase, Kerry, Nikita, Zenk.

July 1988/Stories include: Fantastics, Hogan, Windham, McMahon, Rich.

August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Windham-Luger split, Demolition, Lawler, Ellering.

October 1988/Stories include: Rhodes, Fantastics, Hennig, Roberts-Rude.

November 1988/Stories include: Midnight Ex., DiBiase, Bossman, Brody.

January 1989/Stories include: Kevin Von, Rougeous, Horsemen, Hogan.

February 1989/Stories include: Warriors, Ultimate-Hogan, Bigelow-Gordy.

March 1989/Stories include: Jarrett, Flair, Jake-Andre, Bigelow-Windham.

April 1989/Stories include: Bulldogs, Warriors, Andre, Hogan-Savage.

May 1989/Stories include: Steamboat, Savage-Hogan, Dusty, Valentine.

June 1989/Stories include: Steamboat, Martel, Ultimate-Savage, Luger, Flair.

July 1989/Stories include: Warrior, Hogan-Bravo, Flair-Steamboat, Rhodes.

September 1989/Stories include: Flair-Funk, Piper, Demolition, Zeus.

October 1989/Stories include: Hogan & Beefcake vs. Zeus & Savage, Hyatt, Hayes.

November 1989/Stories include: Piper-Savage-Hogan, Dusty, Flair-Funk.

December 1989/Stories include: Muta-Sting, Andre-Ultimate, Windham.

January 1990/Stories include: Pillman, Hogan, Rich-Luger, Tully & Arn.

February 1990/Stories include: Sting-Luger, Gordy, Martel, Hogan-Brown.

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April 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Woman, Piper-Heenan, Travis.

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October 1993/Stories include: Vader & Vicious, SummerSlam lists, Hart-Lawler.

November 1993/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Hogan, Luger, Jannetty, Bodies, Power.

December 1993/Stories include: Luger, Sting & Flair, Fitch, Luna, Austin.

January 1994/Stories include: Hogan, Rude-Flair, Bagwell & Scorpio, Cornette.

February 1994/Stories include: Vicious & Arn, Yokozuna, Vader-Cactus, steroids, Bombs.

March 1994/Stories include: Pillman, WWF title, Rude, Mountie-Hart.

April 1994/Stories include: Bearer, WCW magic, Hennig & Flair, LPWA.

May 1994/Stories include: Flair, Anderson & Eaton, Piper, Rhodes, USWA.

June 1994/Stories include: Flair-Hogan-Justice, Gilbert, Warrior, Vegas.

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August 1994/Stories include: Warrior, Bunkhouse, Undertaker-Roberts, Sting.

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THE WRESTLER SPOTLIGHT

Every month, *The Wrestler* will comb through its extensive photo files and shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. We'll present unforgettable highlights in the action-packed careers of the sport's greatest stars, culled from the most extensive photographic archives anywhere in the wrestling world!

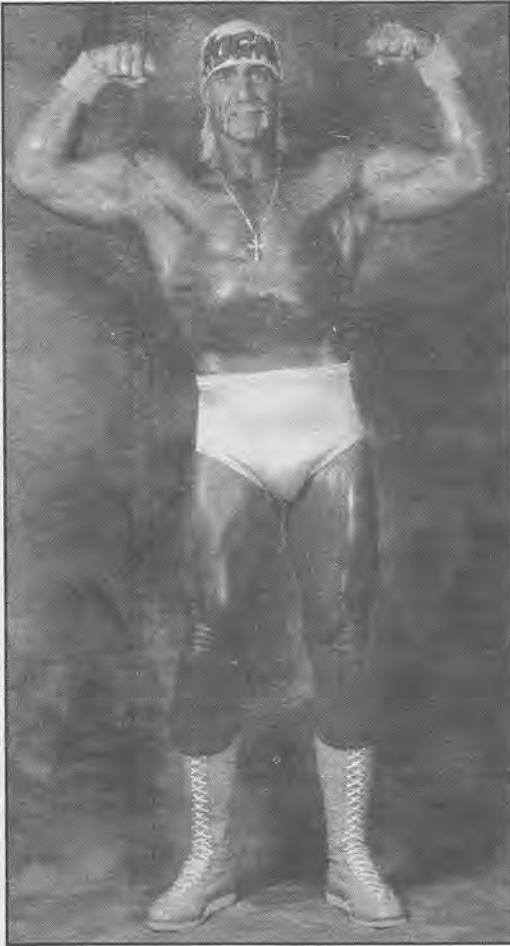
HULK HOGAN

HULK HOGAN, WCW. Although the move had been rumored for months before finally coming true, the juxtaposition still jars many wrestling fans. After all, the "Hulkster" symbolized the WWF more than any other star. He captured five World titles in Vince McMahon's federation en route to becoming the most famous wrestler in history.

Now, Hogan finds himself wrestling outside the WWF regularly for the first time in more than a decade. He'll once again battle Ric Flair, but now he's on the "Nature Boy's" turf, in an environment where Hogan may not be assured of the adulation he is used to receiving.

At the same time, WCW foes and fans know Hogan's presence will surely boost the federation's visibility. Whether or not the "Hulkster" is the greatest wrestler of his time, he is certainly the best-known, the one name recognized by people otherwise ignorant of wrestling. And Hogan has parlayed that fame into a solid, if often critically ill-received, acting career.

Believe it or not, Hogan wasn't always a patriotic fan favorite. He began as a rulebreaker, and was under the guidance of the nefarious Fred Blassie during his first go-round in the WWF. At the time, fans knew him best as the hated rival of the



then-beloved Andre the Giant.

The 6'8" Hogan then moved to the AWA, where he discovered the joys of being a fan favorite. While he never became a champion in that federation, his time there revitalized his career.

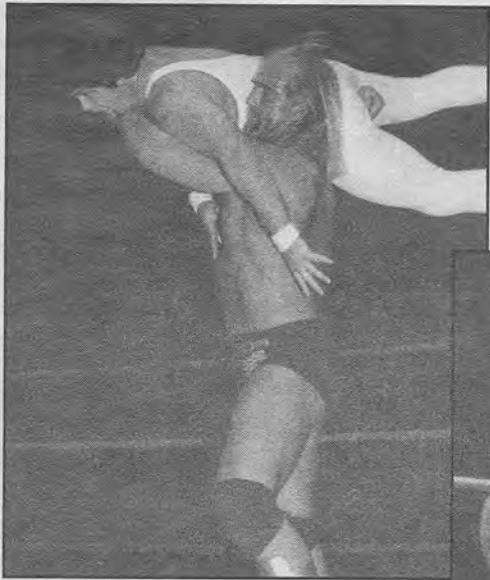
Days after Hogan returned to the

WWF in 1984, he defeated The Iron Sheik for his first WWF World title. He held the belt for more than four years, then regained it four other times, revolutionizing wrestling in the process. A charismatic brawler unlike previous champions such as Bob Backlund, Hogan made power and muscularity fashionable. His fans—"Hulkamaniacs," he called them—were legion, and often willed him to win when things looked bleak.

Hogan helped the WWF expand beyond its roots in the Northeast. It became the first federation with a truly national profile, seizing dominance from the confederation of promotions known as the NWA.

Years have passed, and the NWA has evolved into WCW under cable and sports impresario Ted Turner. He's hoping the "Hulkster" can galvanize his federation, just as he did with the WWF. Can Hogan make lightning strike twice? How will he fare against Flair, Big Van Vader, Sting, and other WCW foes? Will Hogan thrive in a new environment after he's spent most of the past year on sound stages?

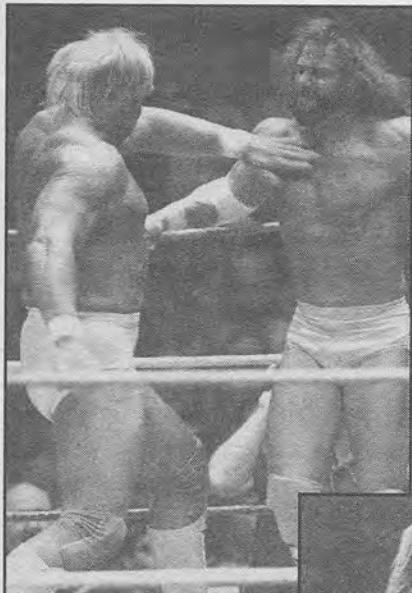
It will be fun to see what happens. Meanwhile, we salute Hogan's triumphant career by casting him in our "Spotlight." □



◀ January 1981: Hulk Hogan prepares to drop Jerry Lawler to the floor during action from Memphis. This was during Hogan's rulebreaking period, just before he made his WWF debut under the management of Fred Blassie.



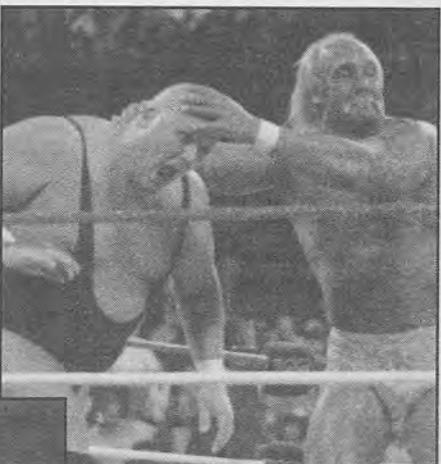
▼ April 1989: Hogan and Randy Savage were allies most of the time, but they had a falling-out over Miss Elizabeth. They thus had several brutal matches, including this war at Madison Square Garden.



▲ January 1984: Hogan had just returned to the WWF after changing to a fan favorite in the AWA. He quickly made his presence known, pinning World champion The Iron Sheik to begin the first of what would be five title reigns.



▲ December 1991: Reunited, and for wrestling fans, it feels so good! Hogan and Ric Flair wrestled for several months during Flair's stint in the WWF, but nothing was resolved. Now the "Hulkster" is on the "Nature Boy's" WCW turf.



▲ December 1987: Hogan sends King Kong Bundy headed toward the turnbuckle. Hulk was now the top drawing card in wrestling history. His WrestleMania III match vs. Andre the Giant the previous March drew a record 93,173.



► September 1986: The "Hulkster," at the peak of his powers, pummels Paul Orndorff. This was voted Feud of the Year by PWI readers, as "Mr. Wonderful" gave Hogan all he could handle but never did put him away.

Beyond the Squared Circle



▲ If former Four Horsemen manager and current WWF talent scout J.J. Dillon has his way, the federation will have a mixed tag team division in about 20 years. That's because he and wife Lindsey are the proud parents of 20-month-old twins—Geoffrey (left) and Amanda.

▼ Paul E. Dangerously knows a bargain when he sees one—even if it may be of dubious origin. ECW's "Psycho Y yuppie" hands over some cash to Public Enemy's Johnny Grunge for some sunglasses before a federation card.



▼ Jimmy Valiant blends the old and the new at his training camp in rural Virginia. The "Boogie-Woogie Man," a firm believer in goat's milk, feeds his herd. But he also keeps up with the news of the world through his satellite dish.





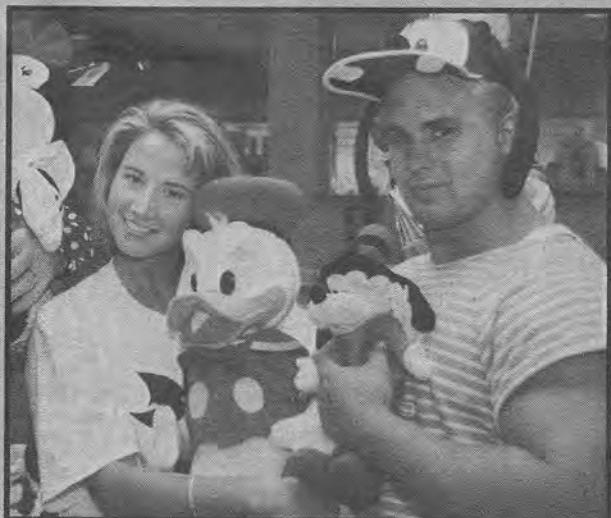
▲ No matter how much is going on in Hulk Hogan's dual career as an actor and wrestler he always makes time for the disadvantaged. This "Hulkamaniac" will never forget his day on the set of *Thunder In Paradise*.



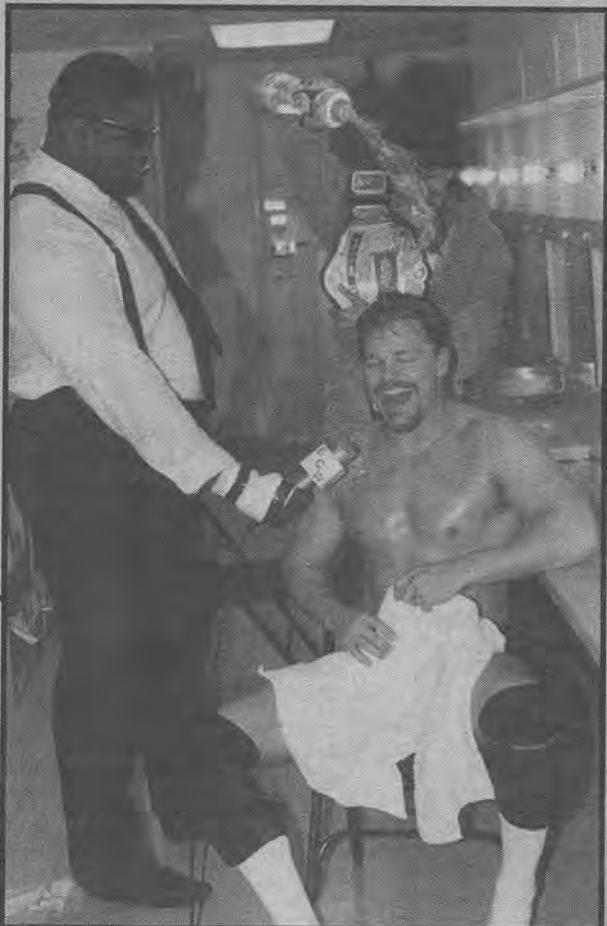
▼ After his devastating parasailing accident of 1990, one would think that Brutus Beefcake would take a more cautious approach to life. "Give up my bike?" he asked, "No way!"



▼ When Tammy Fyetch and Chris Candido say they're going to Disney World, they mean it—and unlike Nancy Kerrigan, they *don't* consider the trip corny! Everything's ducky for Tammy, while Chris appears, well, somewhat Goofy.



► Harley Race, one of Kansas City's most popular athletes, celebrates his recent induction into that city's Hall of Fame with (left to right) the Chiefs' Ted McKnight, son Jason, and wrestler Big Sky.



▲ Shane Douglas knows how to celebrate. After a recent triumph over Terry Funk, the ECW champion gets a victory shower from Sherri Martel, while Mr. Hughes gets his comments.

THE Wrestler

TOP 10

- 1 BRET HART**
234, Calgary, Alberta
(1) WWF World champion
- 2 RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
(2) WCW World champion
- 3 OWEN HART**
227, Calgary, Alberta
(4) No. 2 contender: WWF World title
- 4 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
(6) No. 4 contender: WCW World title
- 5 RAZOR RAMON**
287, Miami, FL
(-) No. 3 contender: WWF World title
- 6 BIG VAN VADER**
450, Denver, CO
(-) No. 3 contender: WCW World title
- 7 DIESEL**
356, Las Vegas, NV
(-) WWF Intercontinental champion
- 8 JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
(7) USWA champion
- 9 THE KID**
212, Minneapolis, MN
(-) No. 4 contender: WWF World title
- 10 TONY ANTHONY**
235, Bucksport, TN
(-) No. 1 contender: Smoky Mountain title



Ric Flair

TAG TEAMS

- 1 THE HEADSHRINKERS**
Combined weight: 520 pounds
(1) WWF World tag team champions
- 2 CACTUS JACK & KEVIN SULLIVAN**
Combined weight: 529 pounds
(8) WCW World tag team champions
- 3 THE NASTY BOYS**
Combined weight: 585 pounds
(2) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 4 CRUSH & YOKOZUNA**
Combined weight: 890 pounds
(-) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 5 CHRIS CANDIDO & BRIAN LEE**
Combined weight: 477 pounds
(3) Smoky Mountain tag team champions
- 6 PUBLIC ENEMY**
Combined weight: 583 pounds
(9) ECW tag team champions
- 7 THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
Combined weight: 453 pounds
(6) No. 1 contenders: Smoky Mountain tag title
- 8 THE QUEBECERS**
Combined weight: 472 pounds
(-) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 9 PG-13**
Combined weight: 471 pounds
(-) USWA tag team champions
- 10 BRIAN CHRISTOPHER & JERRY LAWLER**
Combined weight: 464 pounds
(-) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title

WCW

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
(C) 243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—STEVE AUSTIN**
(1) 241 Dallas, TX
- 2—RICK STEAMBOAT**
(10) 238, Honolulu, HI
- 3—BIG VAN VADER**
(5) 450, Denver, CO
- 4—STING**
(7) 260, Venice Beach, CA
- 5—LARRY ZBYSZKO**
(6) 248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 6—STEVE REGAL**
(2) 247, Blackpool, England
- 7—BUNKHOUSE BUCK**
(9) 239, Bucksport, TN
- 8—DUSTIN RHODES**
(8) 254, Austin, TX
- 9—THE GUARDIAN ANGEL**
(-) 310, Cobb County, GA
- 10—ARN ANDERSON**
(-) 249, Minneapolis, MN

WWF

World Champion:
BRET HART
(C) 234, Calgary, Alberta

- 1—DIESEL**
(1) 356, Las Vegas, NV
- 2—OWEN HART**
(2) 223, Calgary, Alberta
- 3—RAZOR RAMON**
(4) 287, Miami, FL
- 4—THE KID**
(-) 212, Minneapolis, MN
- 5—RODDY PIPER**
(-) 247, Glasgow, Scotland
- 6—IRWIN R. SCHYSTER**
(7) 248, Syracuse, NY
- 7—TATANKA**
(8) 250, Pembroke, NC
- 8—BAM BAM BIGELOW**
(10) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 9—JEFF JARRETT**
(-) 230, Nashville, TN
- 10—JIM NEIDHART**
(-) 275, Tampa, FL

GLOBAL

Global Champion:
ROD PRICE
(C) 265, Los Angeles, CA

- 1—TERRY GORDY**
(-) 289, Chattanooga, TN
- 2—BUTCH REED**
(-) 265, Kansas City, MO
- 3—BILL IRWIN**
(-) 250, Duluth, MN
- 4—CHRIS ADAMS**
(1) 228, Stratford, England
- 5—ICEMAN PARSONS**
(10) 245, St. Louis, MO
- 6—SCOTT PUTSKI**
(4) 235, Austin, TX
- 7—MOADIB**
(5) 285, parts unknown
- 8—ALEX PORTEAU**
(-) 235, Dallas, TX
- 9—MIKE DAVIS**
(2) 235, Tampa, FL
- 10—BLACK PRINCE**
(-) 243, Dallas, TX

USWA

USWA Champion:
JERRY LAWLER
(C) 234, Memphis, TN

- 1—TROY GRAHAM**
(4) 237, Memphis, TN
- 2—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER**
(1) 230, Memphis, TN
- 3—DOUG GILBERT**
(2) 241, Lexington, TN
- 4—TOMMY RICH**
(6) 248, Hendersonville, TN
- 5—SPELLBINDER**
(-) 246, parts unknown
- 6—KOKO B. WARE**
(-) 229, Union City, TN
- 7—TONY FALK**
(-) 240, Dallas, TX
- 8—ANTHONY MICHAELS**
(-) 227, Memphis, TN
- 9—COLORADO KID**
(-) 231, Denver, CO
- 10—J.C. ICE**
(-) 221, Memphis, TN

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue, while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

MOST POPULAR

1	BRET HART
234, Calgary, Alberta	
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular	
2	STING
260, Venice Beach, CA	
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular	
3	RAZOR RAMON
287, Miami, FL	
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular	
4	LEX LUGER
290, Chicago, IL	
Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular	
5	RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI	
Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular	
6	THE UNDERTAKER
328, parts unknown	
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular	
7	RANDY SAVAGE
237, Sarasota, FL	
Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular	
8	TATANKA
250, Pembroke, NC	
Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular	
9	DUSTIN RHODES
254, Austin, TX	
Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular	
10	TONY ANTHONY
235, Bucksport, TN	
Last issue: unrated	

MOST HATED

1	OWEN HART
227, Calgary, Alberta	
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated	
2	BIG VAN VADER
450, Denver, CO	
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated	
3	DIESEL
356, Las Vegas, NV	
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated	
4	JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN	
Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated	
5	JIM NEIDHART
275, Tampa, FL	
Last issue: unrated	
6	CRUSH
322, Kona, HI	
Last issue: unrated	
7	IRWIN R. SCHYSTER
248, Syracuse, NY	
Last issue: unrated	
8	BAM BAM BIGELOW
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ	
Last issue: unrated	
9	JAKE ROBERTS
253, Stone Mountain, GA	
Last issue: unrated	
10	BRUISER BEDLAM
235, Newark, NJ	
Last issue: unrated	

For period ended June 22, 1994

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—RIC FLAIR.....	78 points
2—BRET HART.....	73 points
3—RAZOR RAMON.....	56 points
4—YOKOZUNA.....	55 points
5—STING.....	48 points

TAG TEAMS

1—THE NASTY BOYS.....	94 points
2—THE QUEBECERS.....	70 points
3—RICK & SCOTT STEINER.....	51 points
4—THE HEAVENLY BODIES.....	43 points
5—THE HEADSHRINKERS.....	38 points

SMOKY MOUNTAIN

*Smoky Mountain Champion:
JAKE ROBERTS*

(C) 253, Stone Mountain, GA

1—TONY ANTHONY
(2) 235, Bucksport, TN

2—BRUISER BEDLAM
(-) 235, Newark, NJ

3—TRACEY SMOOTHERS
(1) 227, Atlanta, GA

4—BRIAN LEE
(4) 251, Los Angeles, CA

5—CHRIS CANDIDO
(3) 226, Carteret, NJ

6—RICK MORTON
(7) 228, Memphis, TN

7—STORM
(-) 224, Vancouver, BC

8—STEVEN DUNN
(-) 240, Tampa, FL

9—ROBERT GIBSON
(9) 225, Pensacola, FL

10—TIMOTHY WELL
(-) 237, Dallas, TX

ECW

*ECW Champion:
SHANE DOUGLAS*

(C) 223, Pittsburgh, PA

1—TERRY FUNK
(2) 247, Amarillo, TX

2—SABU
(1) 220, Bombay

3—MIKEY WHIPWRECK
(3) 187, New York, NY

4—TOMMY CAIRO
(4) 257, Philadelphia, PA

5—TASMANIAC
(6) 221, Tasmania

6—2 COLD SCORPIO
(-) 222 Denver, CO

7—KEVIN SULLIVAN
(5) 252, Boston, MA

8—MR. HUGHES
(7) 308, Kansas City, KS

9—TOMMY DREAMER
(-) 245, Yonkers, NY

10—PIT BULL PSYCHO MIKE
(-) 227, Penny Pot, NJ

AAA: AAA Champion—Konnor; 1—The Love Machine; 2—Jake Roberts; 3—Perro Aguayo; 4—Octagon; 5—Cien Caras; 6—El Hijo Del Santo; 7—Eddy Guerrero; 8—Blue Panther; 9—Psicosis; 10—Miguel Perez Jr.

IWCCW: IWCCW Champion—Title Vacant; 1—Manny Fernandez; 2—Cousin Luke; 3—Gino Caruso; 4—Joe Savoldi; 5—Tito Santana; 6—Chris Michaels; 7—L.A. Gore; 8—Tony Atlas; 9—Kodiak Bear; 10—Power Blaster I.

MTW: MTW Champion—Al Snow; 1—Bruiser Bedlam; 2—Sabu; 3—Johnny Paradise; 4—Chris Carter; 5—Bobo Brazil Jr.; 6—Machine Gun Kelly; 7—Sean Casey; 8—Scott The Rock; 9—Scott Summers; 10—Denny Kass.

PWA: PWA Champion—The Hater; 1—Charlie Norris; 2—Blake Beverly; 3—Storm Trooper Aaron; 4—Punisher; 5—Mr. Dynamic; 6—Storm Trooper Willie; 7—Jerry Lynn; 8—Tommy Ferraro; 9—J.B. Trask; 10—Mr. Destruction.

PWF: PWF Champion—Title Vacant; 1—Italian Stallion; 2—George South; 3—Flaming Youth; 4—Brian Williams; 5—Cruel Connection II; 6—Tyrone Knox; 7—Whispering Willow; 8—High Voltage; 9—Russian Assassin II; 10—Black Scorpion.

WWA: WWA Champion—Friendly Frank; 1—King Kong Bundy; 2—Abudah Singh; 3—Boy Gone Bad; 4—Ray Odyssey; 5—Chris Weider; 6—Ed Atlas; 7—Akita Kaos; 8—Ramblin' Rich; 9—Gus the Greek; 10—A.C. Connor.

WWWA: WWWA Champion—Brutus Beefcake; 1—Jack Hammer; 2—Nailz; 3—Sid Vicious; 4—Tito Santana; 5—Rick Martel; 6—Harley Lewis; 7—Johnny Gunn; 8—Jim Neidhart; 9—Abdullah the Butcher; 10—King Kaluha.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 20 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans

After all the hype ... Hulk Hogan finally—and officially—signed on the dotted line with WCW. Even before he stepped into a WCW ring, the "Hulkster" was considered by many to be the top contender to Ric Flair's World title.

Having won five WWF World titles and considered to be the most popular wrestler in history, Hogan will obviously be a major player in the WCW title race, but as of press time, he hadn't *wrestled* in the federation yet. Therefore, we have not listed him in the ratings. Stay tuned.

Ironically, Hogan's signing overshadowed two important departures from WCW that took place at roughly the same time. **Rick Rude**, a former U.S. champion, is gone from WCW. In fact, for now, he is out of the sport completely. Rude could not be reached for comment about his future plans, but we think it is a good bet that the "Ravishing One" has not wrestled his last match. He still has a few acquaintances in the WWF and could re-emerge there in the next few months.

2 Cold Scorpio is no longer flying high in WCW, but is making news on the independent circuit. Shortly after departing from WCW, he made it known that he wanted to face resident ECW maniac **Sabu**, a fellow aerialist. Sabu won their first encounter, in Montgomeryville, Pennsylvania, after **911** interfered. He duplicated the feat a week later on a Midwest Championship Wrestling card in Lincoln Park, Michigan.

In just a few weeks, Scorpio has established himself as a top contender to the ECW heavyweight title currently held by fellow WCW alumnus **Shane Douglas**.

"Million-Dollar" stable. Ted DiBiase told everyone that only he could bring **The Undertaker** back to the WWF and he delivered on his promise.

Or did he? Undertaker actually returned on the WWF's tour of the Far East, beating **Yokozuna**, **Adam Bomb**, and others. Those who witnessed his matches in Japan and Guam say there is no doubt that it was the original Undertaker.

DiBiase did bring The Undertaker back in the U.S., where he beat preliminary wrestlers **Bill Coby** and **P.J. Walker** in his first two bouts. Walker insisted that DiBiase's Undertaker was an impostor. **Paul Bearer**,



Hulk Hogan

the real Undertaker's manager, also made that claim.

You can read more about this controversy on page 34, but since we are not 100 percent certain who is telling the truth in this case, no Undertaker appears in the WWF rankings this month.

DiBiase's other stablemate, **Nikolai Volkoff**, is also an intriguing case. He only signed with the "Million-Dollar Man"

because he desperately needed money to support his family. Though past his wrestling prime, Volkoff remains popular with WWF fans. DiBiase doesn't like that and constantly tries to humiliate Volkoff. He even tells Nikolai he will pay him better if he wrestles more aggressively (i.e., like a rulebreaker). So far, Volkoff is trying to comply with his employer's request.

DiBiase also has signed him for matches against fan favorites such as **Mabel** and **Sparky Plugg**. Since we have talked to many fans who disapprove of Volkoff's decision to sign with DiBiase and his new, more aggressive ring style, we cannot consider him one of the 10 most popular wrestlers in the world today.

Name change number four. He started out in wrestling as **Jim Cornette**'s bodyguard, calling himself **Big Bubba Rogers**. When he competed in the WWF, he was **Big Bossman**. Then he stormed into WCW last winter, where he shortened his name to **The Boss**.

After Spring Stampede, WCW Commissioner **Nick Bockwinkel** stripped him of his handcuffs and nightstick and said he no longer had the right to use that name. At several WCW cards this spring, he was simply **The Man**. Most recently, the 310-pound Cobb County, Georgia, native has been training with New York City's famed **Guardian Angels**.

He was so impressed with the work that group does that he now wrestles under the name **The Guardian Angel** and wears one of its outfits—red beret and all—entering the ring. Regardless of his moniker, he's heading toward the top of the WCW ratings.

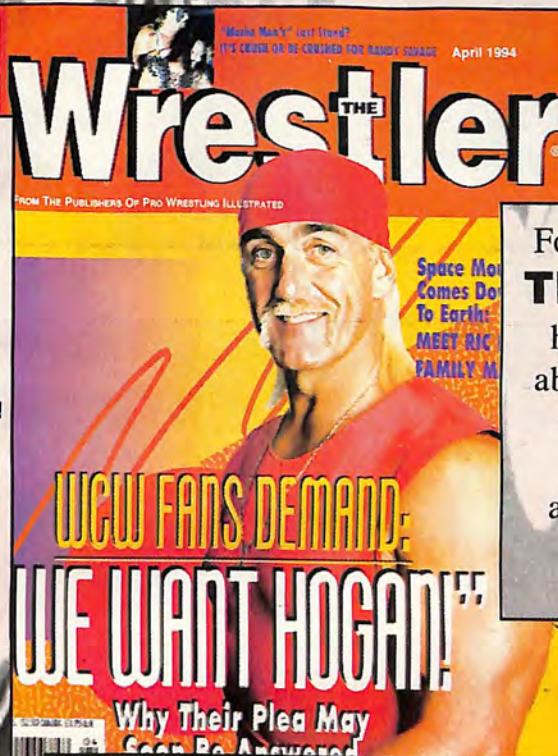
That's all for this month. If you have any comments about our ratings or this column, send them to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o THE WRESTLER, Box 956, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □



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